

Benn rejects Foot's challenge to fight party leadership

By Richard Evans, Political Staff

Mr Michael Foot last night dramatically invited Mr Wedgwood Benn to openly stand against him in a fight for the leadership of the Labour Party.

The challenge, contained in a 24-page written statement which he read out at a meeting of the Shadow Cabinet attended by Mr Benn, was greeted with joy by the majority of Labour MPs at Westminster.

Mr Benn said last night that there was no question that he would stand against Mr Foot for the Labour Party leadership. He would continue to campaign for the deputy leadership "strictly on the issues in support of Labour Party policy".

Mr Foot was heard in complete silence as he took 20 minutes to give his reasons for choosing a face-to-face

confrontation. At the end of those attending, except Mr Benn, thumped the table in approval.

Mr Benn, whose recent open defiance of the long-established doctrine of collective responsibility sparked off last night's challenge, was said to have been clearly shaken and surprised by the move. Afterwards he was saying nothing.

Mr Foot reportedly told the meeting that Mr Benn's campaign for the deputy leadership of the party, and could "throw away" the whole prospect of victory at the next general election.

He referred to Mr Benn not toying the official line in the defence debate. Such behaviour made it virtually impossible to conduct Shadow Cabinet business. He then referred to recent state-

ments Mr Benn had made and invited him to comment.

Mr Benn spoke for about a quarter of an hour, and then Mr Foot read his personally drafted statement. Only the very closest of his colleagues were privy to what was planned.

Earlier Mr Benn sought to turn the tables on his Shadow Cabinet critics by arguing that they were the ones guilty of disloyalty to party policy.

As expected, Mr Benn carried the conference of ASLEF, the train drivers' union and its 27,000 block vote after expounding his socialist "alternative strategy" to the Government's economic policies.

The union became the sixth in the last month to declare for him in the deputy leadership election.

Election moves 'an attack on my good faith'

In his challenge to Mr Benn last night Mr Foot said there could not be "one rule for Mr Benn and another for everybody else". The Opposition Leader said:

"In view of what he has said and done over recent weeks, and in the light of his latest statement to the Shadow Cabinet tonight, I have told Tony Benn that, in my judgment, his only honest course now is to stand against me in the coming election for the leadership of the party."

It is clear that what he is challenging is the good faith of the Shadow Cabinet in carrying out its duties under the Labour Party constitution. That is, above and directly, an attack on my good faith. Since that is, now indisputably what appears to be his view, he should have the openness to act upon it.

Of course, it would have been better for the party and better for the country, if we could, during these precious months before the next election, have concentrated all our energies on quite different themes—the campaign against mass unemployment, the campaign for Labour's alternative economic strategy, the campaign to stop the nuclear arms race. These are the great questions of our time.

But the responsibility for distracting us from these issues must rest with Tony Benn himself, partly because of his decision to contest the election for the deputy leadership and, more especially, because of the grounds on which he has chosen to conduct the argument.

I urged him weeks ago not to thrust the movement into this divisive, and as I believe, futile, contest. He did, for example, many members of the Tribune group, when they had the chance. But he would not agree.

First, then, let me clarify the point about the so-called collective responsibility of the Shadow Cabinet. I have never held the view that this collective responsibility needs to be, or can be, absolute. I have always assumed that it should be in the Cabinet itself. The principle can be applied with some liberality and common-sense give-and-take.

One shadow minister may stray into the province of another, and each should not be too touchy about it, and there may be occasions—such as the dispute over the nature of the new system of voting for the leadership—when differences in the Shadow Cabinet can quite properly be presented to the party meeting.

However, there are some matters—indeed the main matters with which the Shadow Cabinet is charged to deal—which must be conducted with a sense of common trust between those who are members of it. The business of the Shadow Cabinet is to conduct the affairs of the Labour Party in Parliament and a large part of that duty is to direct the attack against our principal opponents, the Tories, the Thatcher Government.

It is the duty of the Cabinet to seek to unite the Labour Party in the House of Commons in delivering the attack, and, also if we can, to divide the enemy.

That is what would have happened in the recent defence debate, according to the decision made by the Shadow Cabinet and accepted without a single voice of dissent being raised at the party meeting. If the debate and the vote had been conducted on the terms recommended by the Shadow Cabinet, the party would have been united, without any weakening of the party's policy, and the most aggressive course, as I believe, would have been pursued by the British Government on the issue of the Falkland Islands. But Tony Benn's conduct destroyed that possibility.

Now, as I understand it, Benn insists that he must be the right to adopt the kind of tactics whenever

he chooses, and, presumably, on his reckoning, the same right could be claimed, and exercised by every other member of the Shadow Cabinet.

There can't be one rule for Tony and another for everybody else; no yard party in any constituency in the country could be run on that basis. Such a method of proceeding would utterly disrupt any chance that the Shadow Cabinet, or the parliamentary party, could properly conduct its fight against the Tories in the House of Commons.

There is, apparently, a difference between Tony and myself about the rights and duties of the Shadow Cabinet, and I propose at a suitable time to take that issue to the parliamentary party. Meanwhile the elected officers of the party will continue to do what they consider to be their duty—to maximise the attack on the Tory enemy.



Mr Foot: 24-page statement



Mr Benn: Clearly shaken

Now let me turn to the so-called conference policy decision above which Tony Benn is questioning my good faith. It is true that the last conference of the party made or confirmed several major departures on policy questions, and that the future health and success of the party depend on how intelligently and unitedly those decisions can be carried forward. But that is not a question, as Tony Benn and some others seem sometimes to imply, of merely transferring resolutions from the conference agenda to the House of Commons order paper. Indeed, the national executive committee of the party itself, with Tony's approval, has set up procedures to see how progress can be made in preparation for the next party conference and the next general election.

I deal here with four such questions—economic policy, Common Market policy, defence policy and the arms race, and Northern Ireland. Of course, this list is not exhaustive, but these four do cover some of the main issues where Tony Benn is questioning my allegiance to the party policy. I want to state clearly the point which the discussions in the party have reached. Economic policy: There is, I am glad to say, widespread agreement within the party as a whole, within the national executive, within the Shadow Cabinet, within the parliamentary party, on a new economic strategy—the alternative to

Tory monetarism and all its works. That was set out, in general terms, in the document issued on April 23 1981 and will be covered more fully in a further statement which is being prepared by the national executive committee.

However, there are two broad fields of policy where further work is now being considered and where fresh work will be required to shape the necessary policies for the next Labour Government. One covers the whole wide subject of industrial democracy, and another covers the question of inflation and how a future Labour Government would conduct its relations with the trade unions in dealing with it. It is idle for anyone to pretend that past conference decisions have settled these matters. The plain truth is that they have not.

Either conference decisions on the subject are non-existent or they are too vague to be effective guides to action. And, of course, in these future discussions the parliamentary party must have the right—and does have the right under the existing party constitution—to help shape the conclusions. I must mention, however, that Tony Benn does appear to be suggesting once again that this right of the parliamentary party and the parliamentary leadership should be abrogated. That in my opinion is a recipe for perpetual discord between the parliamentary party and the party conference itself and therefore of perpetual comfort to our Tory or Social Democrat opponents.

I trust that conference will throw out this proposal, as it has wisely done on previous occasions. The idea that elected Labour Members of Parliament should have no effective influence in devising the manifesto they are charged to carry out is offensive to any idea of parliamentary democracy known to me. Tony Benn's policy for the House of Commons sometimes looks like a plan to transform it into another castrated House of Lords. On the contrary I'm in favour of strengthening the Commons: that means giving MPs more power by abolishing the Lords.

And those MPs exercising greater power must be not honourable members or right honourable members, but real men and women exercising their own independent powers of judgment on the great complex issues of the age. Those are the kind of representatives the Labour movement most needed in the past and those are the kind we will need in the future to win the votes of our people and to make our Parliament more than ever a true servant of those who elect them.

The Common Market: The last party conference passed by a considerable majority a resolution outlining the burdens imposed upon us by our membership of the Common Market, and urging that the Labour Party should support a plan of withdrawal.

As a long-standing opponent of Britain's entry into the Market, I support that resolution, and still do. It will be the business of the next Labour Government to carry through the policy, starting as I believe we should, with the repeal of the European Communities Act of 1972, which was the decisive instrument which transferred power from Westminster to Brussels. However, the means and methods by which the work is done are still matters of serious debate. In the interests of our own economy itself, the legal and economic implications have to be carefully considered, and there is just to make one example—a point of principle involved.

There is to be a new referendum on the question of withdrawal? There are powerful arguments for, and as I believe, perhaps even more powerful arguments against. But it is no use anyone in the party saying that the withdrawal question is already settled. The TUC Congress, for example, carried a resolution on this aspect of the



Smile and blessing as Pope leaves hospital

Rome, June 3.—Smiling and waving, the Pope was today unexpectedly discharged from hospital where he had been recovering since the attempt on his life on May 13. In his traditional glistening white robes he gave a papal blessing to hundreds of patients watching from balconies and walked unaided to his car.

He was driven to the Vatican where he was received by a group of cardinals and was presented with a bunch of flowers by

a Korean girl who last week had offered the Pope her pet nightingale, to keep him company in hospital.

A little more than half an hour after he had arrived back in the Vatican, he appeared at the window of his study on the third floor of the Apostolic Palace to bless a group of 300 Poles in the square. Among them were about a dozen representatives of the Solidarity trade union movement. The Pope waved to them.—A.P.

H-block compromise offered by Catholics

By Clifford Longley, Religious Affairs Correspondent

In a statement intended to offer both sides a way out of the Maze prison hunger strike deadlock, a commission of the Roman Catholic Church in Ireland yesterday asked the British Government to make general changes to the prison regulations affecting all prisoners.

The statement opposed the claim for political status for IRA prisoners and called on its supporters not to make demands for perpetual discount in the impossible to accept.

The statement was drawn up by the Justice and Peace Commission of the Irish Bishops' Conference and therefore carries a good deal of weight. Indications yesterday were that those who prepared it may have made confidential contacts on both sides of the H-block dispute.

On behalf of the Irish Bishops, the commission holds a general brief to watch and comment on Northern Ireland. Last year it called on IRA prisoners in the Maze to call off their "dirty protest".

The statement recalls that the Government promised last October to continue to review all aspects of prisoners' living and working conditions "guided by a humane and responsive approach". It asks the Government "in the light of that declaration to make certain changes throughout the Northern Ireland prison system."

Prisoners should be allowed to wear their own clothes all the time, as they are at the women's prison at Armagh. There should be increased opportunities for association between prisoners "while making

So different from the days of dear Sir Harold...



Mrs Reagan for wedding

Washington, June 3.—President Reagan will not attend the wedding of the Prince of Wales to Lady Diana Spencer, but his wife, Nancy, has accepted the invitation, the White House said today.

Mrs Reagan was quoted as saying: "I am very happy and flattered to be asked and I am excited at the prospect of being present at such a historic and romantic occasion."

President Reagan had expressed a desire to attend the wedding, and jokingly hinted at one point that he wanted to see the bride. But he will be attending the economic summit in Ottawa in July. There were also indications that his advisers do not want his first visit to Europe as President to be for strictly a social occasion.—UPL

TV film shows patients in cages

A film on life in two hospitals for the mentally handicapped, due to be shown on ATV next week, includes shots of a child tied to a post and adults confined in caged areas outside. Filming took a year and was mainly at St Lawrence's Hospital, in Caterham, Surrey, and Borcupine Hospital, near Reading.

Four new hospitals

The British United Provident Association is to spend £20m this year to build four new hospitals to meet the growing demand for private medicine.

Coe leads the world

The Olympic 1,500 metre gold medalist, Sebastian Coe, ran the fastest 300 metres in the world this year last night, returning from 44.06secs during the Phil Knight Athletics at Crystal Palace.

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Whitehall conflict on EEC

Chancellor urges budget reform

By David Banks, Economics Editor

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Minutes highlight Treasury doubts

By Peter Hennessy

A deep divergence of view between the Treasury and the Foreign Office about prospects for Britain's recovery from the recession is highlighted in minutes of a meeting of the Treasury Committee.

The minutes, obtained by The Times, show a House of Lords Select Committee on the European Communities by two treasury officials, Mr David Hancock and Mr Andrew Edwards. They told the Committee they see little hope of the Government achieving its goal of getting the EEC to switch to a system of finance which would benefit the poorer EEC countries like Britain.

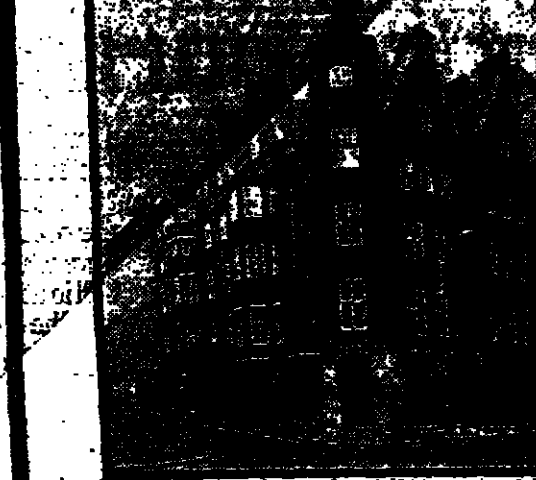
In a clear reference to differences with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Mr Hancock told the Committee he did not think the Treasury should be concerned with the European Community Budget. At the Treasury, he said, Treasury officials have consistently felt that the Foreign Office has taken too soft a line on this with Britain's European partners.

The Treasury, though pessimistic about discussions on the Chancellor's idea will at least lead to some compromise financial mechanism that will limit the amount which net contributors have to pay. Referring to Sir Geoffrey Howe's suggestion that contributions to the EEC budget should be related to wealth, Mr Hancock said: "I do not imagine for a moment that it will be the result of these negotiations, but

Continued on back page, col.3

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Dr. Runcie with the Bishop of Derry, Dr. Daly, in London-
derry yesterday.

By David Felton

Runcie condemns suicide of hunger-strikers

From Tim Jones, Belfast

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Runcie, yesterday condemned the action of the hunger-strikers at Maze and the Roman Catholic Church in Ireland.

Speaking in Belfast during a four-day tour of Ireland, Dr Runcie opposed the prisoners' refusal to eat, and the status of the political prisoners, but suggested that there might be a new initiative on the question of prison discipline.

Dr Runcie said the Government should not be over-

About fifty of the 1,200 detainees walked out to protest about his "close relationships with the Roman Catholic Church."

Later he travelled to Londonderry for private talks with the Mayor of Derry, Dr Edward Davis.

While he was there a civilian was shot dead by terrorists who fired at an Army foot patrol in the town's main street.

men's attitude, he said: "I do not think there is any give and I do not think there should be any give on that ground. It is a matter of principle and there are precedents in other places."

As a Christian, he said, he had sympathy for the families of the hunger-strikers. "But I cannot condone that kind of protest, which is based on force and increase the violent attitudes and great fear." He made clear that he considered the hunger-strikers were committing suicide; that raised grave moral questions.

His attitude, he was clearly supported by allegations that he had asked people to pray for the soul of Robert Sands.

"How people got hold of something like I never said at all and I am not willing to rest, detention or conviction."

The authors, Miss Patricia Hewitt, general secretary of the group, and Miss Catherine Scorer, call for its repeal and argue from research into individual cases that it is both unworkable and against the spirit of the Act, which is terrorism and counter-subversion, stifling debate and playing into the hands of extremists.

In particular, they criticized the exclusion orders made under the Act, which have led to 201 people being returned from Britain to Northern Ireland and 34 to the Irish Republic.

The Prevention of Terrorism Act, The Case for Repeal NCLL, £1.75.

EBC and terrorists, page 14.

From Christopher Thomas
Dublin

The British Government's plan to make another attempt later this year at political reform in Northern Ireland has intensely embarrassed Mr. Charles Haughey, Prime Minister of the Irish Republic.

It has had the immediate effect of discrediting his acceptance of the claim that the Anglo-Irish agreement was a precursor to a new constitutional arrangement between the Republic and Ulster.

The two main opposition parties in the Republic could scarcely make much of the affair, so far they have stood by their word not to make a party political controversy of the Anglo-Irish agreement. The Bar, however, has been alarmed by the Government's intentions was reviewed by Mr Humphrey Atkins, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, and he has remarked that the Republic would have no involvement.

At a press conference in Dublin yesterday Mr Humphrey Atkins said that the Government's attempt at political reform would be ineffective, because of the ineffectual operation, he

He had read about it in the newspapers but had received no indications from the Northern Ireland Office. The Irish Government, he said, themselves is totally committed to the Dublin summit" he added in a reference to his talks with Mrs. Margaret Thatcher at Windsor Castle in December, after which joint working groups were established to discuss issues like tourism, economic cooperation and the exchange of energy.

Mr. Maughey was challenged to say to a straightforward terms, whether the constitutional position of Northern Ireland was on the agenda of the studies. Although it is beyond doubt that it is, he said, he was not prepared to give away his electoral card.

He returned promptly to the possible new political moves in Northern Ireland. "It would be very foolish, it would get nowhere, just as the last exercise got nowhere but which wasted a lot of time." Economic issues seem gradually to be assuming a greater place in Mr Haughey's campaign. He began last Friday week with a bold statement on Northern Ireland, and economic matters came a distinct second in his early speeches. His opposition, however, has been in focusing attention on prices and wages.

From Christopher Warman, Local Government Correspondent, Bournemouth

The Government's threat of legislation "to curb rate increases could destroy the whole basis of local government freedom," Mr Peter Shore, Opposition Economic Affairs, said yesterday.

At the annual conference in Bournemouth of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy, he also criticized the Government's "policy of the State for the Environment," for his threat to cut local authorities' grants if their budget totals exceeded spending targets.

Local public expenditure cuts, in a period of severe recession, only compound the difficulties of the British economy. A careful and well planned expansion of public expenditure is now essential if we are to avoid a vicious spiral of decline and begin the long march back to rising output and increasing prosperity," he said.

Public expenditure totals had failed to be cut during the past year, and the effects of the effects of the recession.

Of course, the Government has cut community and social services, particularly those supplied by local government, but these cuts have been more than counterbalanced by the inevitable increase in other forms of public expenditure."

He was not surprised that large overspending for 1981-82 had appeared in the local councils' preliminary estimates.

Many authorities had had to make large increases in the rates and had been generous in their spending programmes because of the new grant system and because of the switch of government grant from the London and Metropolitan areas to the counties.

The threat of grant reductions if the authorities do not cut still further is bound to be bitterly resented. More, reductions on the present proposed scale can only be achieved at a heavy cost in community and

services which would be particularly resented.

There was a sense of unfairness which could damage the long standing partnership between central and local government. "The further threat of new legislation to limit the freedom of local authorities to determine their own rates will be pursued, destroy the whole basis of local autonomy."

Many delegates, certainly from Labour authorities, are defiant about Mr Heseltine's long list of demands. One of the leaders of the Labour has controlled Association of Metropolitan Authorities has been called for June 15 to discuss possibilities. Mr Jack Smart, the chairman, has been warning that supplementary rate increases by many authorities are inevitable if they lose grant.

Mr Illyd Harrington, deputy leader of the Conservative Council, claimed that Mr Heseltine was stripping local councils of the right to make the decision that local people voted for.

We believe that this big brother behaviour is both damaging and undemocratic. We intend to set about our business in a sensible and workmanlike way, and to be punished by the Government for trying to run basic housing, transport and employment programmes is ridiculous.

"Local councils should be accountable to their electorates without the Treasury being involved in their decisions."

Mr David Daniel, deputy leader of the West Yorkshire County Council, said that if Mr Heseltine tried to act against councils in the London area, there would be the prospect of a real constitutional crisis.

"We will take all legal steps to fight these cuts, and we cannot allow the latest attacks to take place."

If Conservative councils whose budgets are above the Government's target, yet who are still spending at or below what the Government has estimated would be required to provide a rate in the standard of the 1976-77 to ensure a full rate

of the proposed penalties for overspenders (Diana Geddes writes).

Mr Heseltine announced on Tuesday that the Government would withhold up to £450m unless local authorities revised their budgets for this financial year to a target of 5.5 per cent less than last year's authority expenditure in 1978-79, excluding the effects of inflation.

Of the 39 county councils, most of which are Conservative controlled, all but two, Dorset and Northamptonshire, have budgeted to spend above that still spending at the level of so-called grant-related expenditure (GRE), the level deemed necessary to bring up the standard of service up to the national norm.

The county councils have long argued that using the 5.5 per cent target as the measure of overspending was particularly unfair because they had already had to make considerable cuts in spending before 1978-79 as a result of the former Labour government's shift of resources away from the counties to the cities.

They therefore started from a lower baseline.

The Government is expected to take both the 5.5 per cent target and the GRE into account when deciding how far to penalize an overspending authority.

Mr Heseltine had originally argued that the Government should withhold up to £900m in grant if local authorities failed to reduce the budgeted overspending of £1,250m in Mr Mark Carlisle, Secretary of State for Education and Science, fearing the effect that would have on education, tried to get the threatened grant loss reduced to £300m.

The compromise figure of £450m was reached after other Cabinet colleagues, including Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Industry, expressed concern about the effect on the rates and industry of too large a cut in the standard of the

Ronald Butt, page 14

By Ian Bradley

Mr Wedgwood Benn, the leading proponent of the submission to the Labour Party that the Labour Party will himself face a challenge when he faces his constituency reselection conference next month.

The executive committee of the Bristol, South-east, Labour Party has taken the unusual step of nominating a candidate to oppose Mr Benn at the meeting on July 5.

after the decision of the Labour conference, since it was the national executive committee that should not be a shortlist of one.

She said that the executive had every confidence in Mr Benn as an MP and had no intention of ousting him, but had not been informed of the intention to put up a challenger.

By Our Science Editor

The different ways, in which civilians can protect themselves against a nuclear attack are examined in a book published today. It also lists places in Britain which are obvious targets.

Peter Goodwin, the author, compares the value of evacuation with staying, and he lists the costs and usefulness of modifying homes, buying shelters, gathering supplies and other measures.

The effects of present and proposed weapons, how they work and what happens to people and buildings in the vicinity of an explosion are described by Mr Goodwin, a lecturer in education at the Central Office of Information.

Large-scale government programmes to build shelters in Britain and most other countries would probably not be sensible, given the cost and uncertainties.

Mr Goodwin suggests that a national level planning for evacuation is a more promising approach.

But there are severe limitations because much of Britain is in the east coast area. America is too densely populated to make widespread evacuation feasible. The Soviet Union is in a similar position, as its population and industry are in even greater concentrations than those in the United States.

Nuclear War: The facts on our survival. (Ash and Grant. £5.95).

By Our Political Staff

Walsall councillors may have pay compensation out of their own pockets to six dinner ladies who face losing their jobs with the council because they have refused to join a trade union.

Mrs Margaret Thatcher gave the warning in a letter in which she said the council's disgraceful behaviour would be taken fully into account in assessing the case for further legislation against the closed shop.

"The council are threatening their own employees with dismissal in violation of their statutory rights and they are doing so knowingly and with complete disregard for the consequences," she told Mr Richard Shepherd, Conservative MP for Aldridge-Brownhills.

Mrs Thatcher added: "No legal authority which is prepared, for purely ideological reasons, to dismiss people who are performing a valuable social service can claim to be genuinely concerned about the welfare of its school children or about the problem of unemployment."

The Prime Minister, who expressed her admiration and support for the stand taken by the six, said that if they took the case to an industrial tribunal and were awarded compensation she would consider the matter closed. The Minister said that the auditor might well find that compensation should be paid to the six, but that it was not the business of the councillors' own pockets.

Mr. James Prior, Secretary of the National Union of Public Employees for Employment, who has been in the city since the start of the strike, said that the six, has been coming under increasing pressure to produce legislation in the next session to deal with the closed shop.

Many Conservative MPs believe that Mrs Thatcher is strongly in favour of further legislation.

By a Staff Reporter

The Government was accused yesterday of selling off three of Scotland's best known hotels at well below their true value. Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Transport, had

announced in the Commons that he had agreed to allow the British Railways Board to build a new company, Glenageles Hotel, in Perthshire, and a Caledonian and North British hotels, in Edinburgh. There is not immediate apparent a Glenageles, a palatial imitation of a French chateau standing among lawns and faultlessly maintained gardens in a park of 700 acres with the most extensive range of recreational facilities provided in that kind of a country. The hotel has the championship golf courses.

British Rail to "acquire the Hotels of Britain" would be followed by a campaign to "take over" the new company, and was entering detailed discussions with institutional investors, many based in Scotland, to put the rest of the capital.

Mr Fowler said: "We are talking of proceeds of more than £100 million. The Opposition Mr John Prescott dismissed British Rail's advisers as 'bought and paid for'. I believe the hotels were to be sold for £100 million."

Mr Fowler's concern might more fully be justified at a time when the British and Caledonian railways are in a state of flux at either end of Princes Street. In both, a few of the rooms set aside for private baths or showers are being used by the Labour MP Willie Hamilton. The constituency includes the hotels, accused the Government of "stealing the British Rail assets, stripping the British Rail of its assets, and taking the step which they know is against their financial interest."

By a Staff Reporter

Mrs Shirley Williams con-
firmed last night that she will
be the Social Democratic
Party candidate in the Warring-
ton by-election.

She told close colleagues on Monday, as disclosed in *The Times*, but it was only last night that she made an official statement.

She said: "After careful consideration I have concluded that I can serve the party better in the months immediately ahead by helping to establish it throughout the country rather than being a candidate in a by-election whose timing is uncertain, and which would demand

very great deal of my available time, already heavily committed to a heavy programme of SDP meetings throughout the country.

It is the uncertainty of the timing of the by-election, caused by the appointment of Sir James Williams as a circuit judge, which has prompted Mrs Williams to say that she will not let her name be put forward for consideration.

But Mrs Williams says the SDP is right in its decision to fight the by-election. The question of a candidate will be considered at a meeting of the Warrington SDP next Thursday.

Names being mentioned as likely SDP candidates are Professor David Marguard, former MP for Ashfield, and Mr David Williams of the former Conservative Party.

But whoever the SDP faces a Labour majority of 10,274, and although Liberal Party leaders are urging the constituency officials in Warrington to put up a candidate, the seat has been traditionally safe for Labour.

Mrs Williams was Labour MP for Hertford and Stevenage in the 1979 general election.

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CRIME RISE
A big police reorganization has begun in Humberstone to combat the rise in crime. For the first time the number of reported crimes has exceeded 50,000, an increase of 8 per cent over the previous year and

Overseas selling prices			
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Britain	40.00	DM	1.000
Canada	25.00	US	1.000
France	25.00	FF	100.00
Germany	25.00	DM	1.000
India	25.00	INR	100.00
Japan	25.00	JPY	100.00
South Korea	25.00	KRW	100.00
Spain	25.00	ESP	100.00
Switzerland	25.00	CHF	100.00
Taiwan	25.00	TWD	100.00
Thailand	25.00	THB	100.00
USA	25.00	US	1.000
Yugoslavia	25.00	YUD	100.00

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BUPA announces further £20m hospitals scheme

By Nicholas Timmins

The British United Provident Association is to commit £20m this year to building four private hospitals, and possibly the same amount for four more next year, to help meet the growing demand for private medicine.

The provident fund, which covers most of the private medical insurance in the United Kingdom, already owns the 68-bed Nightingale BUPA Hospital in London. It has just built a £4.75m hospital in Manchester and is in the middle of a £20m building programme to provide another 180 private beds in four hospitals at Bushey and Harpenden, in Hertfordshire, at Cardiff and in the West.

The plans for further expansion were announced yesterday by Mr Derek Damerell, chief executive of BUPA, at the company's 93-bed hospital in Manchester. It is the largest private hospital to be built outside London and is to be opened officially later this month.

There has been a spectacular increase in the number of people buying private health cover. Subscribers rose by 27 per cent last year and more than 3,750,000 people are now covered. BUPA accounts for nearly three million of them.

Sites for the four new 50 to 60-bed hospitals have not been selected, but areas that BUPA is examining include Bromley and Chislehurst in Kent, the Essex border to London, Crawley, in Sussex, Portsmouth, Norwich, Newcastle upon Tyne, Nottingham and Peterborough.

A decision on whether to commit a further £20m to four more hospitals next year will depend on whether the demand for private medicine continues to grow at the present rate.

King's visit causes BBC to put off show

By Kenneth Gosling

The BBC has postponed the reshowing next week of the two-part television adaptation of the Harold Robbins novel, *The Pirate*, because it might give offence to King Khalid of Saudi Arabia, who will be in Britain on a state visit.

The decision recalls the controversy after the showing a year ago of the ATV film *Death of a Princess*, which led to strained relations between the two countries. The BBC said yesterday that there was a possibility that parts of *The Pirate* might have been offensive to the king.

It was while the Saudi ambassador was at the Foreign Office yesterday to discuss the visit with Sir Ian Gilmour, the Lord Privy Seal, that he expressed concern at the effect the programme might have.

But it is understood the BBC had already decided to transfer it to a later date, substituting two programmes in the *Movieland* series next Monday and Wednesday, when the original programmes were to have gone out.

The Foreign Office made clear yesterday that it did not put the BBC under any pressure or ask it to change its mind about the timing of the programme. Yet it would no doubt have explained to the BBC that the Saudis were very sensitive about such matters.

The Pirate was first shown in September 1979, being billed as "Harold Robbins' saga of power and passion". The story is set against the background of the Arab-Israeli conflict; the principal character, Jewish by birth, had been raised by a wealthy Arab ruler.

He becomes "a manipulator of world politics, an international playboy and the central figure in a high life of sex, intrigue and danger".

He is played by Franco Nero.



A clay model of Lady Diana Spencer, draped in a damp cloth, being finished by Mariel Pearson, the sculptor, at Madame Tussauds, in London. When cast in wax it will be clothed in an evening dress given by Lady Diana.

'The Times' to launch health supplement

By a Staff Reporter

Mr Rupert Murdoch announces today an addition to the stable of supplements published by *The Times*. A new weekly, *The Times Health Supplement*, will be launched in October. It will be edited by Miss Jill Turner, formerly health and social services correspondent of *New Society*.

Mr Murdoch, chairman of Times Newspapers Ltd, said: "The health services are under-reported. This newspaper will attempt to supply the remedy."

The scheme for *The Times Health Supplement* originated under Thomson ownership and had to be justified when *Times Newspapers* was sold to

Mr Murdoch's News International earlier this year.

The supplement was originally to have been published from Oxford, but will now be printed in common with the other supplements of *The Times*, in Northampton. The editorial staff of 12 will work from London.

The new weekly is intended to cover every aspect of health policy and will be addressed to all who take or influence decisions affecting health care.

Miss Turner said yesterday that it was expected that the supplement would sell at 45p. It was hoped to achieve a circulation of 15,000 to 20,000 copies a week in the first year of publication.

Union enters store takeover battle

By Donald Macintyre, Labour Reporter

The biggest shopworkers' union yesterday stepped into the takeover battle for the House of Fraser with detailed demands on behalf of its members at Harrods and the company's other department stores.

Leaders of the Union of Shop, Distributive and Allied Workers are to seek talks with both Lorrain and the House of Fraser in an attempt to secure guarantees that manning levels and terms and conditions will be maintained and improved, whoever wins control.

Assurances from both companies that they would maintain and develop their operations in general, and at Harrods in particular, have failed to satisfy shop stewards representing almost 1,000 members at the Knightsbridge store.

The move is said to have been prompted by anxiety among Harrods staff over the Lorrain bid for the company, now referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, and the highly publicized divisions within the Fraser board over the takeover plan.

The union is to challenge both parties to say that there will be no redundancies or increased renting of sections of the Fraser stores to brand name concessionaires using their own staffs.

Mr John Flood, the union's deputy general secretary, said yesterday that Harrods was "unique in European if not in world retailing", and depended on a full establishment of specialist staff.

The union will also say that its policy conference this year pledged to fight for the elimination of part-time staff who do other jobs as well as work in department stores. Mr Flood emphasized that "moonlighting" was an issue throughout the country and not confined to Fraser stores.

It also wants guarantees that both groups would maintain and develop the share plan, under which an estimated 19,000 of the chain's 32,000 employees have a stake in the company, and that neither party would sell off stores in order to lease them back, with a possible threat to long-term job security.

Fears over private lorry tests

Public criticism of heavy lorries will increase if the Government hands over Department of Transport testing of lorries to private garages, the Road Haulage Association said yesterday.

Remused by its desire to reduce civil servants and its faith in free enterprise, the Government was proposing to hand over a function in which competition was entirely inappropriate and could lead to abuse, the association told the Commons Select Committee on Transport.

Lorry testing was a public service essential to road safety. Mr George Newman, director-general of the association, told the committee, "Public concern about and criticism of heavy goods vehicles are at present contained to some extent by the knowledge that they are subject to stringent annual tests conducted impartially by Government testing stations."

The present system had achieved a substantial improvement in lorry maintenance since 1968, much of it because of its assured impartiality.

Both bus and lorry operators have united in protest against the proposals, which is seen as no more than a cosmetic and doctrinaire device.

THIRD MAN QUILTS RACE INQUIRY

By Our Education Correspondent

A third member of the committee of inquiry into the education of ethnic minority children has resigned over the Government's dismissal of the committee's chairman, Mr Anthony Rampton.

Mr E. J. B. Rose, chairman until last year of Penguin Publishing, cofounder of the Rummy-mede Trust and author of *Colour and Citizenship*, the result of a five-year survey which he directed into race relations in Britain in the 1960s, wrote yesterday to Mr Mark Carlisle, Secretary of State for Education and Science, informing him of his decision to resign.

Mr Rose learnt of Mr Rampton's removal on returning a few days ago from central America. Two other white members of the committee, Mr Kenneth Millins and Professor Eric Hawkins, announced their resignations a fortnight ago.

Mr Rose said yesterday: "I think Tony Rampton has been very badly treated. It is unwise and unjust. He kept together that committee, which was so full of disparate elements, and I do not believe anyone else could have done that."

"He was very liberal and encouraged every point of view, and that meant that discussions were sometimes long. But he was a very good chairman."

How to bait traps for gourmet mice

By Robin Young
Consumers Affairs Correspondent

Mice prefer chocolate, dried fruit, nuts or lard to cheese in their traps, and if you feed silverfish flour they should stop eating your books.

Which? the monthly magazine published by the Consumers Association, has been testing the susceptibilities of household pests.

Its report includes the information that a cat can support up to 15,000 fleas. Each adult flea spends only about 10 minutes a week on the cat. If one has decided to pay you a visit you will probably be bitten around the ankles.

Bites on the arms or face probably mean that you have attracted bird fleas instead. Human fleas, if not an endangered species, are at least extremely rare.

Lice are no sluggards. They can move quickly, so are often noticed only after they have laid their eggs. "If large numbers of lice are present for a long time you can feel quite ill", Which? says.

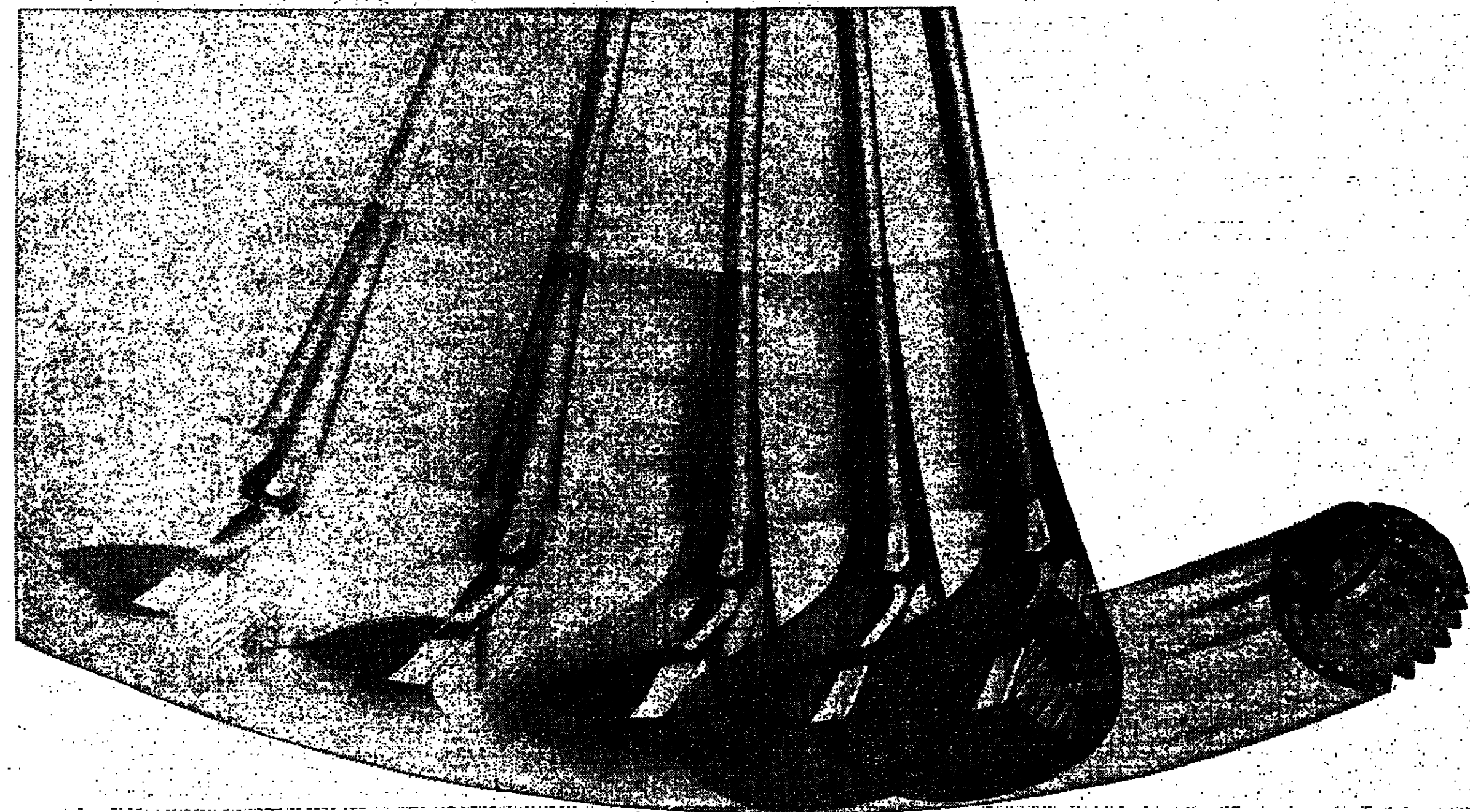
Pouring boiling water into ants' nests "may be psychologically rewarding but is unlikely to be effective", and Which? suggests that wasps "do a lot of good—killing flies, among other things"—and are best left alone, unless they are boring into mortar between bricks.

Rats and mice can spread various diseases and cause serious catastrophes about the home by their incessant gnawing. Traps are best laid in series at right angles to the animal's runs, but Which? found that mice really do not like cheese very much, so it is not a good bait.

To test the effectiveness of fly-killing, Which? killed 30,000 flies, releasing them in a typical room in batches of 500. Fly-papers "worked" surprisingly well, becoming ineffective only when overcrowded with victims.

Most aerosols scored a 100 per cent knockdown rate in 10 minutes, but some left victims to buzz and skitter for a while afterwards. Which? says that where possible, killers using non-persistent pyrethroids should be preferred to those containing toxic diazinon or gamma BHC.

Mafu fly balls, which are moistened to attract flies, "hardly worked at all". However, Which? says that might be because "our flies were well treated and not particularly thirsty before being released into the test room."



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TV film shows boy tied to post in hospital

By Lucy Hodges

A shocking indictment of life in hospitals for the mentally handicapped is due to be shown next week on ATV television, in a programme that will include shots of a child tied up for hours on end and adults confined in cages outside.

Written and directed by Mr Nigel Evans, a freelance producer, the film, *Silent Minority*, is the first of three being screened by ATV to mark the International Year of Disabled People.

Filming took a year and was done mainly at St Lawrence's Hospital in Caterham, Surrey, and Borocourt Hospital, near Reading.

The film, which was shown in the press yesterday, looks at Greenacres, the children's ward at St Lawrence's. It shows mentally handicapped children, clean, fed and dressed but hopelessly lonely. Two blind children, caged together for comfort, criers sit alone, rocking back and forth and chewing on their clothes.

In the adolescent ward one of the boys, Nicky, is seen trying to attract the nurses' attention by pulling clothes off the tables. They patiently replace them but give him no attention.

He ends up tied to a post for four or five hours a day, and is being moved up and down repeatedly.

At Borocourt hospital a wire compound has been erected in the grounds, paid for by the

League of Hospital Friends. Adults are locked in there unsupervised, for hours.

Many suffer from blisters as a result of hypersensitivity to the sun caused by the drugs they are given. In one ward at Borocourt in 1979 the patients contracted gangrene.

Mr Evans blames the system in these large hospitals as well as the policy makers. He also says there are not enough staff. A former student nurse comments: "It's like some sort of horror show that's going on in the background that no one really wants to admit."

"You have not got enough nurses to cope with the patients. You have just been through the experience of trying to wash, bathe and feed 20 sometimes severely ill people between three of you. You have got to relax at that point."

"And so the answer has become to use the compounds; to open the doors and say 'Right, go out there and entertain yourselves'."

"It hurts me to do it. I think it hurts everyone, but I think with time you get used to it. I think with time a soldier gets used to killing people."

The film contrasts those hospitals with a special small unit for spasms, that only one of its kind in Britain, where severely disturbed children are coaxed out of their anti-social behaviour.

There is some doubt about

whether the IBA will allow the film to be shown in its present form.

A spokesman said discussions were going on with ATV about the programme, which is due to be shown at 9 pm next Wednesday. "We need to be sure that it is seen to be fair and impartial as possible," he said.

Mr Evans, the mental health charity, has written to the Secretary of State for Social Services drawing his attention to the programme. "We have urged the Government to stop agencies and start restructuring mental handicap services," Mr Tony Smythe, its director, said.

Health regions should be planning the merger of some obsolete mental handicap hospitals and the run-down of the vast majority so that within the next 10 years they are replaced by a network of district-based services.

Mr Brian Rix, the former actor, who is secretary-general of the National Society for Mentally Handicapped Children and Adults, described the documentary as a shocking testimony of the deprivation and indignities suffered by thousands of mentally handicapped people living in such institutions up and down the country.

He said there was no doubt the people were brutalized by their environment, which was impersonal, institutional and, in too many cases, inhuman.

Reprisals fear shuts black youth club

A predominantly black youth club in Thornton Heath, south London, cancelled its regular meeting last night because community workers feared that it would be the target for reprisals by white youths angry over the killing of Mr Terence May, aged 19, on Monday night.

Mr May was dragged from his motor cycle by a gang of black youths and stabbed to death after an attack on the Thornton Heath.

Mr Chaudhury Anwar, chief community relations officer for the borough of Croydon, said: "There is a need for calm and all the community leaders will be spreading that message throughout the area."

The borough has a coloured population of about 25,000 out of a total population of 320,000. Most are concentrated in the Thornton Heath, Norbury and Norwood areas.

It is not recognized as an area of black political militancy, nor does it have many of the problems associated with inner-city areas such as Brixton, also in south London. The streets around Melfort Road, where many blacks live, are pleasant and the terrace houses well kept. For youngsters there is the Parchmore youth and community centre, which the organizers want to be multi-racial. But it has become almost exclusively used by blacks on Monday and Wednesday club nights.

On the predominantly white Green Lane estate, where Mr May lived, there are few facilities for youngsters and it is poorly served by public transport. Community leaders have pressed the local council to provide more facilities on the estate, recognizing that the apparently better facilities for black youngsters have created tension.

However, they blame the increasing animosity between white and black youths on the activities of the National Front in the area and on the rioting at Brixton, which they say, helped to polarize the community.

Mr Anwar said: "We are only a few miles from Brixton, and there may have been some spin-off from the violence. There is some tension in the community and there are extremists who try to make use of that."

The National Front admit that they are active in the area and a candidate who stood for Croydon North West, the recent General Election, received 395 votes.

IN BRIEF

Two feared dead in boat mishap

A woman drowned and her husband was missing, feared drowned, yesterday after a hired motor cruiser went over the "Witches Cauldron" weir at Cromwell Lock, on the river Trent, near Newark, Nottinghamshire.

A RAF helicopter flying near by was diverted to rescue the couple's two children from the water. One, a boy aged 13, was in a critical condition last night; his sister, aged 12, was suffering from shock and bruising. The family were from Ashford, Kent.

Dog fight

Mr Ronald Mallinson, aged 55, a demolition contractor, and his wife, of Kidd Lane, Melbourn, Cambridgeshire, who claimed a barking dog kept them awake at night for two years, received £400 agreed damages yesterday at York County Court from their neighbours who own the dog. Mr Brian Brook and his wife settled out of court.

Escape book charge

Lovainia MacKenney, aged 25, of Crutchley Road, Catford, London, daughter of Mr Henry MacKenney, who is serving a life sentence for murder, was committed for trial by magistrates at Greenwich yesterday on charges of dishonestly handling stolen RAF manuals on escaping from jail and survival on the run.

PC shoplifter

A police constable on the staff of Buckingham Palace was fined £50 yesterday for stealing £310 of food from Woolworth's. Inner London Crown Court was told that Police Constable James Eastment Brown, aged 27, was almost caught last night when he was seen carrying a £3,500 pension. He denied the charge.



An artist's impression of the façades planned for Wardrobe Place.

Wardrobe's new clothes

By Charles McKean, Architecture Correspondent

New proposals to redevelop Wardrobe Place, near St Paul's Cathedral, will be considered by the City of London planning committee in the next few weeks. If a backlog of applications can first be exhausted. The plans, by the architects, Ronald Ward and Partners, show considerable amendments to the original scheme.

Wardrobe Place is a quiet backwater off Carter Lane, itself saved from a destructive road scheme some ten years ago. It is entered through an archway, and has the atmosphere of the Inns of Court. The offices within are occupied by accountants, publishers and similar small businesses.

The redevelopment proposal deals with three sides of the square: the entrance facing Carter Lane, the east toward Addie Hill, and the south toward Wardrobe Terrace. Most of the buildings are of the north and south wings would be rebuilt behind the present façades. A study of refurbishment demonstrated that it would be about 30 per cent more expensive.

One question raised is whether the redevelopment might not drive further out of London the small businesses which inhabit the buildings. Apart from the dislocation during construction, it is probable that the new rents would be of a different order from the old; but then, so would the amenities. The argument then goes that some businesses would prefer old and less well provided offices for reasons of low rent and so forth.

Those are planning questions. It is clear that the City corporation has to decide sooner or later whether to insist that developments provide purpose-designed accommodation for small firms. For, despite the architects' intent that schemes such as this could be subdivided for smaller users, a premium would have to be paid.

On the other hand, if it became a planning restriction that small, self-contained offices were the only planning objective that was acceptable, different economics would apply. As it is, the proposals allow for 75,000 sq ft of office space with limited entrances,

with a large public house facing Wardrobe Terrace, a café, and a caretaker's flat.

The architecture of the scheme is a different matter. Ronald Ward and Partners were the authors of the extraordinary Collette House in Piccadilly, with its gay bands of colour and cheerful use of historic details. Here, much of that approach is repeated. The architecture proposed is possibly better than that which exists.

The revised design for the courtyard facade has overcome many of the weaknesses of the original proposal. We now have a series of patterned brick arches the length of the facade, the columns between the arches being of a giant order and running from top to bottom of the facade.

In the centre will be an arched doorway. With the exception of the roof treatment (as in Collette House) the facade being of a giant order and running from top to bottom of the facade.

The same cannot be said of the facade facing Addie Hill, which is too large and emphasizes the grand scale of this office development.

Dum-dum bullets story 'a lie'

Leslie Cooke, one of two men accused of attempting to murder Police Constable Philip Olds, told the Central Criminal Court yesterday that he was lying when he told the police he had seen his partner, Stuart Blackstock, put dum-dum bullets into a pistol before they set off to raid an off-limits shop.

Mr Cooke, aged 21, of Elm Tree Avenue, Northolt, London, and Mr Blackstock, aged 26, of no fixed address, deny attempting to murder PC Olds, and wounding him with intent to resist arrest.

He lied about the bullets, Mr Cooke said, because "my back was up against the wall. I thought if I could make it worse for Blackstock I could wriggle out of it. I made up answers to the police to make it worse for Blackstock."

Describing the night when PC Olds was shot and paralysed, two days before Christmas last year, Mr Cooke said: "I was not calm about what was going to happen. I was quite nervous."

He told the jury he thought the gun was going to be used only as a "frightener."

The jury will consider its verdict today.

Disabled will suffer under jobless scheme, groups say

By Pat Healy, Social Services Correspondent

Disabled people and others needing specialist help to find jobs will suffer if the Government implements the Rayner proposal to make registration as unemployed voluntary, according to two pressure groups.

They say in statements published today that it is only by registering that the most needy come into contact with the skilled help they need.

The Disability Alliance, which represents more than 70 organizations, says the true trend of unemployment would be hidden and that would reduce the pressure for more help for disabled people to find jobs.

The Alliance says that the Rayner proposals on payment of benefits to the unemployed, which were published in March, ignored the serious implications for the disabled resettlement service. That service provided the specialist employment help for many who failed to register.

People needing help from the service include those who become seriously disabled after an accident or illness, as well as older people who were demoralized by losing previous

jobs through chronic sickness or growing disability. The Child Poverty Action Group says the Rayner report was permeated with a familiar acceptance of present high unemployment levels.

"We consider it dangerously negative to plan the long-term future of the employment and benefit services on the depressing assumption that unemployment will continue at such a level," the group says.

The proposals were concerned mainly with policing the unemployed and saving money, with the interests of the unemployed themselves coming a very poor third, the group says.

"If the state employment service is going to differ from a private job agency, its role must be to offer a service to those people with special problems in finding work," the group says.

It welcomes the Rayner report suggestion that there should be a single claim form for unemployment benefit and gives qualified approval to the idea that the unemployed should be dealt with in a single office. But it rejects proposals for increased fraud work, for which the group says no convincing case has been made.

Lambeth faces racial bias charge

Lambeth Council, which prides itself on its equal opportunities policy, faces an allegation that one of its employees racially discriminated against an Indian in his department.

Lambeth takes in Brixton, the site of the recent riot. Mr Hartley, Dean director of the Brixton advice centre in Raiton Road, said: "This case is a test of Lambeth Council's ability to put its race relations and equal opportunities policies into practice."

The left-wing Labour council is presided over by Mr Ted Knight. Its equal opportunities policy is one of the stiffest in the country, and all employees have to read and sign a document.

The council is now in the embarrassing position of being taken to an industrial tribunal by Mr Shashin Majithia. It denies the charge of racial discrimination.

Mr Majithia, who has worked as a clerk in the council's finance department for six years, filed a complaint last year.

He alleged that Mr David Elsegood, a chief cashier, made rude remarks about him in front of other staff, all of whom were white, and that he frustrated his attempts at promotion. Mr Majithia had applied for 30 jobs, with no success.

He said he was not allowed time off to collect a £750 deposit he had given to a local estate agent and thereby lost the money. He was also not allowed a day off to meet his mother at Heathrow. That treatment was different from that given to other staff.

When Mr Majithia was late for work in March last year because of a bus strike, he says Mr Elsegood shouted at him. He had said he should learn the manners and discipline of this country.

At a formal grievance hearing lasting five days, Mr Elsegood did not deny having said those things, but he did deny racial discrimination. An 18-page report did not find any evidence of discrimination in promotion, but did find a number of recommendations. These included discussion of equal opportunities training seminars.

None of the recommendations was implemented because things quickly got out of hand. Mr Majithia claims he was sent to Coventry by the other staff and physically assaulted by one.

After taking a straw poll of the office, the finance director promoted Mr Majithia out of the section. It was the failure to implement the grievance panel's recommendations that led Mr Majithia to take action against the council.

He has been supported by Mr Jay Thakker of the Asian Community Action Group. Without Mr Thakker's help he said he would have left his job and the country. "It has made my life miserable," he said.

Lambeth council said yesterday that it had a strong equal opportunities policy and that complaints were thoroughly investigated. It said it was denying the charge of racial discrimination at the industrial tribunal.

Mr Elsegood said yesterday that he did not want to comment. "There is a question that I discriminated on racial grounds. It was to do with Mr Majithia's conduct," he said.

BODIES IN WRONG GRAVES

Council officials in Newport, Gwent, apologized yesterday for burying three bodies in the wrong graves.

The borough council has drawn up a code of practice to ensure that such a mistake does not happen again. It has applied to the Home Office for permission to exhumate the bodies for reburial.

Mr George Stephenson, the superintendent at St Woolos cemetery, has been suspended for a month by the council after an internal disciplinary hearing. He has been told he will get a final written warning, subject to appeal.

Mr Alfred Ropke, head of leisure services, said the mistakes took place when unmarked graves were reopened for new burials.

"The error was first spotted by a stonemason who was asked to put a headstone on one of the graves. After that discovery we checked through our records and discovered three cases in all," he said.

Cash award to boost inventions

An award to encourage university and polytechnic staff to become involved in business and industry is to be introduced by the Government later this year.

The idea comes from Mrs Margaret Thatcher as part of a campaign to improve the success rate in translating British inventiveness into commercial development.

The scheme, to be introduced by the Department of Industry, will recognize two or three important innovations a year with sums of several thousands pounds each to be spent at the place of higher education.

The details have to be worked out, but the department said yesterday that the criteria for assessing projects were being drawn up with interested parties.

Suitable projects would include specific inventions from research, collaborative ventures between industrialists and academics to solve a particular problem of manufacturing or process engineering, and advanced themes of education and training to improve efficiency.

The thinking behind the new award was contained in an address recently by Mrs Thatcher on science, technology and business to a private meeting of the Parliamentary and Scientific Committee. She regretted that the reorganization of the Commons select committee structure had seen the demise of the one on science and technology, and hoped it could be reestablished.

She spoke of how inventive the British were but how poor in terms of developing and marketing their inventions. There was a long way to go before proper recognition would be given to the country's inventors.

She wondered whether effective use was being made of the engineering and scientific talent in universities and polytechnics. Some were well organized to help inventive firms, and a few had set up bodies through which discoveries in the laboratory were turned to commercial use.

But if the country's future, and that of science, depended on economic wellbeing, then the path had to be eased for innovation.

THEOLOGY UNIT TO CLOSE

The council of Southampton University has approved a proposal to close the university's theology department and to reconsider the future of Russian studies when the single member of staff in the Russian department leaves. The level teaching in Russian will continue until that time.

The proposals, put forward in a report by a working party chaired by Professor John Roberts, the university's vice-chancellor, have been approved by the university senate.

Suspended general in accounts inquiry

By Stewart Tendler and Henry Stanhope

Members of the Army's Special Investigation Branch are examining military accounts in connection with a major-general suspended from duty by the Ministry of Defence said yesterday. The inquiry concerns Major-General Henry Dazell-Payne, formerly in command of the 3rd Armoured Division of the Rhine Army, who was suspended on full pay almost a year ago.

Last year four summonses accusing him of dealing in vintage port on which duty had not been paid were dropped by customs officials. Magistrates at Dover dismissed the charges and the officer was awarded costs.

The present investigation is not connected with those charges, according to army sources, but refers to the period when the officer was serving in West Germany. West German police are not involved.

The initial suspension took place on June 27 while General Dazell-Payne was GOC of the division. He was replaced in command there last November when his term of command would have been completed. Since then he has been living in Britain.

The statement issued by the ministry said that no other soldier had been suspended from duty in connexion with



Major-General Dazell-Payne: Commanded armoured division

Jewish backing for protest over West Bank twinning

By Frances Gibb

A petition was launched yesterday by a group of Jews backed by the Board of Deputies of British Jews in protest against Dundee District Council's decision to twin with the West Bank town of Nablus and display the Palestine Liberation Organization flag.

The decision by the Labour-controlled council has provoked strong protests both from the city's Jewish community and from local politicians, academics and church leaders.

It was followed by the first authentic incidents in the city's history, including the destruction of the synagogue with swastikas and National Front symbols.

Mr Greville Janner, Labour MP for Leicester, West and president of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, said yesterday that the decision of the council to twin with a town with which it had nothing in common showed incredible obtuse stupidity and insensitivity.

The petition calls on the council to revoke the decision to twin with Nablus and remove the flag. It is expected to attract more than 5,000 signatures, including those of 100 MPs, 1,000 from citizens of Dundee of all politics and faiths, 1,000 from leaders in British political, commercial, industrial, civic and church

life and 1,000 from leaders of the British Jewish community. The petition is to be presented to Parliament during this session. It will be open for public signatures on July 5, when there is a mass rally in Trafalgar Square against the PLO and peace in the Middle East sponsored by the British Board of Deputies.

Apart from Mr Janner, its sponsors are Mr Richard Douglas, Labour MP for Dunfermline, Mr William Walker, Conservative MP for Perth and Perthshire, East, and Mr Gordon Wilson, Scottish Nationalist MP for Dundee, East.

Mr Walker said yesterday that the PLO had claimed the twinning with Dundee as a "victory" and the councilors really wanted to further the cause of peace in the Middle East. They could have chosen a town like Jeddah or Riyadh, but why one with such historic associations as Nablus and the problems relating to the present situation?

Mr Wilson said the act had greatly damaged Dundee's image and reputation. The link with a terrorist organization had harmed Dundee's international standing.

Mr Kenneth Fagan, deputy leader of the council and city treasurer, said yesterday that there was no question of revoking the decision.

TO THE RETAIL TRADE FROM DICKIE DIRTS

Where lies the logic in the current shopping hours?

At present it is against the law for shops to sell most types of goods after eight at night and on Sundays.

Dickie Dirts is a retail shop selling jeans and casual clothing. For three and a half years they have been open from 9am until 11pm seven days a week.

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27% Sunday

Dickie Dirts are currently running an opinion poll which asks the public their opinion of the law regulating shopping hours. So far over 40,000 votes have been collected, out of which 94% are in favour of late night and Sunday shopping. The general opinion expressed by the majority of these voters is that these are the most convenient times for them to shop.

The majority of shops appear to forget that they are in business to provide a service for the customer.

The laws pertaining to shopping hours are out of pace with modern Britain. Today we are a nation of many races and creeds and most people do not have the time available to do all their shopping conveniently during conventional shopping hours. Dickie Dirts believes that the law should be updated to suit Britain's needs.

Dickie Dirts would like to know the opinion the Retail Trade on this matter.

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Riot police use tear gas on school protesters

From Ray Kennedy, Johannesburg, June 3

Riot police today mounted a savage attack on Coloured mixed-race high school pupils who attempted to organize a protest march outside Johannesburg over the detention of a student leader.

The headmaster of one school said it was a normal day when the police arrived. His pupils were writing tests and preparing for examinations.

Mr Henry Petersen, principal of the Westbury High School, said: "I was forced out of my office by tear gas. My children were baton-charged, beaten up, and what for? They weren't marching. It was a normal school day."

Police said tonight 38 boys and two girls had been arrested on charges of causing malicious damage to property.

The pupils' protest started at the Christian Barba high school in the segregated coloured township of Bonmont where Aziz Jardine, the Student Representative Council president, was detained last week by security police after a demonstration against the celebration of the anniversary of the South African Republic.

Hundreds marched to the Westbury high school to enlist support and, according to police, were planning to march to John Vorster Square, the Johannesburg police headquarters. The police said a small anti-riot squad was stoned by the pupils at Bonmont.

Reinforcements were called in and a "sneeze machine", a Land-Rover fitted with a fan that blows out a cloud of tear gas mixed with powder so that it sticks to the skin, circled the block while the police waded into the pupils with whips—rubber sjamboks—and batons.

Blue Sisters win appeal on hospital

From Our Correspondent, Valletta, June 3

The Blue Sisters nursing order has won an appeal against a Maltese Government attempt to take over their hospital, in one of several legal and bureaucratic contests between the Government and the nuns of the Little Company of Mary—known as the Blue Sisters—from the colour of their veils.

The Government failed to establish before the court that the nuns' right to use the hospital had ended.

In spite of the court ruling, however, the hospital is likely to remain closed. Because the institutions is one of two private hospitals remaining on the island, the Government refuses, in a separate but related legal action, to renew the hospital's operating licence.

When, at a previous court hearing, a judge agreed that a case for licence renewal brought by the nuns should be heard urgently, the Government suspended all superior court judges' duties, effectively closing the doors of the courts.

The judges' duties have resumed, but the licence renewal case is still pending.

The nuns can keep the hospital only if they continue to render the nursing services to our under the terms of Foundation. They successfully deflected the Government's challenge on this point today, but without a licence they could face permanent closure.

Malta opposition pledges closer links with Britain

By David Spanier, Diplomatic Correspondent

Malta will apply for membership of the European Community and seek closer relations with Britain if the Nationalist Party wins the next election. In a confident account of his policy yesterday, Dr Eddie Fenech-Adami, leader of the opposition party, said Malta badly needed to regain credibility in its foreign policy.

The present Maltese Government's policy of neutrality, defined as equidistance from the two superpowers, had failed, Dr Fenech-Adami said. Over the last 10 years Malta had gained few friends, antagonized many old ones and was still without any dependable security arrangement.

During his visit to London he called on Mrs Margaret Thatcher to explain his policies and also had talks with Sir Ian Gilmour, Lord Privy Seal.

Dr Fenech-Adami said yesterday that his party was "all set to go for the election fully confident that it stands to win". Elections are due within three months of the dissolution of the Maltese Parliament whose term ends in November.

Although there has been harassment and intimidation in his own family, Dr Fenech-Adami said yesterday he was quite sure that any recurrence of violence would be resisted successfully.

Malta wants elections and they will definitely take place," he said. "My party is strong enough, organized enough and prepared enough to prevent any sort of fiddling of the elections."

Free Democrats split over change of partners

From Patricia Clough, Bonn, June 3

The cartoon in today's *Süddeutsche Zeitung* shows a combined statue of Herr Helmut Schmidt and Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the leaders of the ruling coalition, each with an arm round the other's waist, firmly united. But standing on which they are crumbling beneath them.

Officially the deeply strained Social Democratic-Free Democratic coalition in Bonn is sound and fully committed to run the country until the next election in 1984. But on lower levels and particularly in the *Länder* the 12-year-old relationship between the two parties is disintegrating.

In some *Länder* tentative moves are being made towards a new alliance between the Free Democrats (FDP) and the Christian Democrats (CDU)

Costly social reforms announced in France

From Ian Murray, Paris, June 3

The French Cabinet today introduced a package of social measures, which will cost about another 8,000 francs (£700m) before the end of the year.

President Mitterrand promised to end the project to enlarge the Larzac Army Camp in the Aveyron; to introduce legislation to abolish the Court of State Security; to ensure a nuclear power station at Plogoff in Finistère would not be built; and to carry on the programme of nuclear arms testing in the Pacific.

All these promises relate to controversial subjects, which featured during his election campaign; but they could all become broken promises should the left lose the legislative elections later this month.

The extra cost of the social measures announced today is already causing groans from the employers, while the communist CGT union is complaining that not enough is being done.

Paying for these new measures will be too expensive within the terms of the existing French budget. In consequence a new tax is to be imposed on 100,000 people who last year paid more than 80,000 francs in tax. There is also to be a profit tax on oil companies and a luxury tax.

The most far-reaching measure raises the basic minimum wage immediately by 10 per cent from 2,653 francs to 2,900 francs (£254) a month for a 40-hour week. This will affect the wages of about a million people, 75 per cent of whom are women, and will add about 4 per cent to the national wage bill.

The second most important measure is a 25 per cent increase in family allowances from the beginning of next month. This will affect about four million families, with a total of 11 million children between them. A study on the reform of family contributions is also to be carried out.

Other measures to take effect from July 1 are 20 per cent increases for the 1,800,000 old age pensioners and the two million handicapped adults. Both will have their allowances raised from 1,417 francs to 1,700 francs a month.

A final two-stage measure will increase housing subsidies by 25 per cent from July 1 and by a further 25 per cent from December 1 for 2,300,000 households.

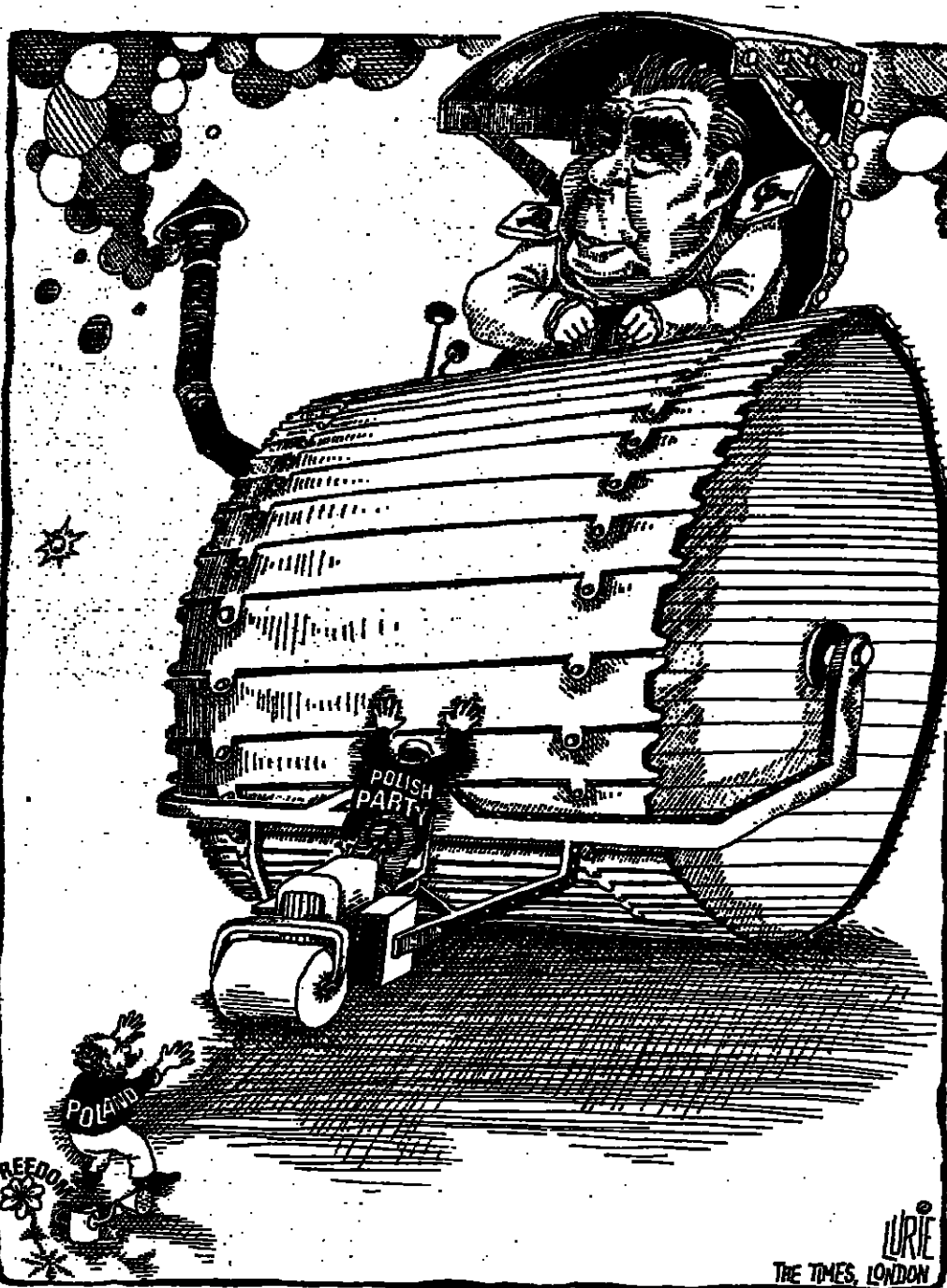
The system instituted last year to cut the cost of the health service will be ended. If these social measures were much as expected, the special statement by the President was not. It is clear from its tone that he had been under some pressure to clarify a number of issues, especially the nuclear one.

By cancelling the Larzac project the President has brought to an end a 10-year saga, during which the peasants of the area became the focus for environmental protesters' groups not only in France but throughout Europe. Huge rallies tended to politicize the fight against the extension of the Army camp.

The President's statement seeks to make it clear that the decision on Plogoff does not mean an end to nuclear energy development in France.

By turning down the concept of total reliance on nuclear energy for the future, he said, it did not mean that work would stop on power stations actually under construction. On the contrary, these would definitely be completed.

Human rights: The Cabinet decided to overturn the use of the Government's refusal to allow individual French citizens to put a case before the European Commission of Human Rights. That refusal, M. Piarre-Bereyrou, the Prime Secretary-General said today, amounted on its own to a breach of the European Convention on Human Rights.



Polish party hits out at diehards

From Bessie Trevisan, Warsaw, June 3

The struggle between the conservatives and reformers within the Polish Communist Party took a new turn today as the Polish Politburo publicly accused the party's self-styled Katowice Forum of hindering the efforts to restore unity within the party.

One day after the Soviet media gave approving coverage to the Katowice Forum and its resolutions attacking the party's leadership, the Politburo roundly condemned the group and thus implicitly the Soviet haste in lending it support.

The Politburo which met yesterday, said in a press statement today that the Katowice Forum's programme was outright damaging to the efforts to forge party unity. The language was mild but the meaning was blunt and certainly goes beyond domestic dialogue.

Mr Kazimierz Barczakowski, a Politburo member, said the Polish leadership continues "persistently to explain and argue that Poland needed a party party."

"Without a strong party there will be no renewal and therefore it is necessary to do everything to overcome the differences," he said.

Continuing dialogue over party reforms was intended to unify different currents so that out of "many clubs" there would emerge "one club with one leadership which will enjoy the confidence of the rank and file."

The torrent of rank-and-file protests against the Katowice group, evidently encouraged the Politburo to launch a counter-attack. For several days the local party organization has been issuing resolutions saying that the stand taken up by the self-styled diehard group was an invitation to intervention in civil war that could lead to the loss of Poland's sovereignty.

Obviously this group has been biding its time since last November. But, it was in mid-May that it met, openly and, possibly, under the protection of some highly-placed local party functionaries. It was obviously encouraged by the evidence that the Russians were not only apprehensive of the reformist trends in Poland but also increasingly suspicious of Mr Stanislaw Kania's moderate leadership.

The Katowice Forum couched its declaration in inoffensive language not used in Poland since the mid-1950s. It issued warnings against revisionism threatening the leading role of the party, questioned relations between Church and state and voiced objections to private farming in Poland.

It would be laughable were it not for the fact that it provides Moscow with the kind of evidence to prove that healthy forces in the Polish party share Moscow's concern. The fact that the Polish Politburo hit back at the group shows that it is being taken seriously.

A fortnight ago five people in Sosnowiec went on hunger strike demanding the release of political prisoners, four of whom, including Mr Leszek Moczulski, the leader of the right-wing Confederation of Independent Poland, have been held in prison since last September, awaiting either trial or release.

Mr Rudolf Skvortsov, the Soviet Consul General in Poznan, was today found dead in his home with a bullet head wound, sustained, according to official sources, accidentally while cleaning his hunting gun.

Leading article, page 15

Cheysson tries to reassure America

From Charles Hargrove, Paris, June 3

Having reassured the West Germans in Bonn yesterday that the coming to power of the left did not imply any shattering changes in French foreign policy, M. Claude Cheysson, the new Foreign Minister, is leaving for Washington tomorrow to accomplish a similar mission with the Americans.

The apprehensions of both the German and American Governments are broadly the same: the possible appointment of communist ministers after the general elections later this month; and the emotional approach of both President Mitterrand and M. Cheysson towards the developing countries.

The Americans, unlike the Germans, will not beat about the bush over the communist issue. The Germans did not refer to it in their talks with M. Cheysson, but it is uppermost in the thoughts of every one in Bonn.

What the German and American governments also find highly disquieting is the appointment of M. Regis Debray, an admirer of the Castro regime in Cuba, as adviser to President Mitterrand.

M. Debray, who is 40, does not make any secret of his sympathy for the armed struggle against the American "imperialists" and their allies.

Lebanese troops may join Syrian force

From Robert Fisk, Beirut, June 3

As the first stage of the Arab League's initiative to end the fighting in Lebanon gets underway this weekend, President Sarkis is expected to propose that about 5,000 Lebanese regular troops should be seconded to the 22,000-strong Syrian Army here.

The Lebanese soldiers would then be ordered to take over duties from the Syrians around the besieged Christian town of Zuhle and in some western sectors of Beirut.

Mr Sarkis is due to address the Foreign Ministers of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Syria on Saturday at the presidential summer palace at Beit Eddine and the four men will concentrate on ways of bringing the fighting to a halt.

As nominal commander of the all-Syrian Arab Deterrent Force (ADF), Mr Sarkis is able to propose a Lebanese reinforcement for the Syrian troops and is likely to do so with the full support of the Government in Damascus.

It will not be a moment too soon. There were further Israeli raids on Palestinian targets in Lebanon during the night—this time in the north of the country near Tripoli—and the Syrians have, for reasons best known to themselves, recommended their shelling of Zuhle. Right-wing radio stations reported this afternoon that a girl aged 17 and a boy of 12 were killed in the bombardment.

The idea for the foreign ministers meeting on Saturday originated at last month's Arab League summit in Tunis, a conference initiated by Saudi Arabia at the instigation of Mr Philip Habib, President Reagan's special Middle East envoy.

Mr Habib is due to return to the area in the next day or so, and a genuine and lasting ceasefire in Lebanon is an essential part of his formula to resolve the crisis between Israel and Syria.

By putting Lebanese troops into Syrian positions under the ADF's command, Mr Sarkis is merely replacing Syrians with Lebanese soldiers under a separate command—Mr Sarkis can maintain the legitimacy and continuity of Syria's military involvement in Lebanon.

The Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) said today that it had suffered no casualties in last night's Israeli shelling of targets north of Tripoli. The Israeli Military Command said that its naval forces had fired at a centre of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

Washington: The United States has conceded for the first time that Mr Habib, is working under a time limit to restore peace to Lebanon, (David Cross writes).

Begin castigates Schmidt

From Moshe Brilliant, Jerusalem, June 3

Mr Menachem Begin, the Prime Minister of Israel today again attacked Herr Helmut Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, and rejected claims that his earlier diatribes had united the West around the Chancellor.

Mr Begin complained in Parliament that the Chancellor, who served in East Europe as a German combat officer, had never replied to his question whether he had served in East Europe. The town where the Prime Minister's parents had been murdered in the Holocaust.

Mr Begin said he had many letters from West Germany stating that his response to Herr Schmidt had been the only fitting reply by the Prime Minister of a Jewish state to an officer in Hitler's army.

"He can shout to high heaven and the German press can scream but I don't care," he said. And he declared all Germans who had lauded Hitler as long as he brought them triumph shared guilt for the crimes against which the world would not heal in 10 generations.

He said Germans should have no illusions that they purged themselves by paying \$800m (£380m) in restitution when they had caused the deaths of millions including the gold teeth of Jews.

Strict security precautions were introduced round the southern Sinai town of Ofira tonight in preparation for tomorrow's summit meeting between Mr Begin and President Sadat of Egypt (Christopher Walker writes).

AIRLINE FARES TO GO UP

From Alan McGregor, Geneva, June 3

A minimum increase of 5 per cent on passenger fares from September 1, and freight rates from October 1, was agreed by senior executives from 57 airlines meeting here for the past two days. The increase on the North Atlantic is likely to be twice that.

Mr Adam Thomson of British Caledonian, the conference chairman, pointed out that all airlines operating on North Atlantic routes have been showing significant losses.

As the United States Civil Aeronautics Board had just sanctioned fare increases of between 10 per cent and 18 per cent for American airlines, he expected that some of the British airlines on the route would thus be seeking 10 per cent, rather than trying to stay within the 5 per cent.

He said the extra 5 per cent was estimated to bring in \$500m (£230m) in the airlines' aggregate revenue this year, to reduce their expected deficit to \$2,100m.

Paris: Increases in British Airways security charges were a "manifest rip-off" in a time of economic recession, Mr Alastair Pugh, managing director of British Caledonian, told an aviation conference here today (Arthur Reed writes).

Two department stores in the centre of Athens were burnt out early this morning and the authorities treat the fires as politically motivated arson.

Anonymous telephone calls to two Athens newspapers tonight claimed responsibility for the arson on behalf of two different and unknown organizations—the Revolutionary Anti-Capitalist Action and the "New Organization". The police are treating these claims with reserve.

Although there is no reason to link this outrage with the routings of a thwarted military coup on Monday night, the coincidence generates a feeling of uneasiness in the Greek capital.

Mr George Rallis, the Prime Minister, watched the fire brigades battle to control the fires, soon after they broke out at 3 am within 15 minutes of each other.

The fire gutted almost the entire block in the Kleofidou department store on Agiou Street, and it caused severe damage in the seven-floor Athenian department store on Stadium Street.

The similarity with the twin blaze that destroyed two other department stores in the same district shortly before Christmas, was striking.

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Tefal Sandwich Toaster 36021.	\$26.99	\$24.99
Prestige Pressure Cooker 6167.	\$34.99	\$29.99
Binafonia "Masterpiece" Clock Radio/Cassette.	\$45.99	\$32.99
Saenatel 12" Mario TV 750.	\$54.99	\$49.99
Sharp Stereo-Radio Cassette 6060.	\$84.99	\$72.99
Electrolux Cylinder Vacuum Cleaner 355.	\$89.99	\$74.99
Creda Tumble Dryer 300 RS.	\$82.99	\$74.99
Pilot Fridge 35781/2.	\$109.99	\$94.99
Indesit Auto Washing Machine 092 AOC.	\$149.99	\$129.99
Indesit Fridge/Freezer 418.	\$169.99	\$149.99
Hoover Twin Tub Washing Machine 5022.	\$179.99	\$159.99
Philips Microwave Oven 7910.	\$224.99	\$214.99
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Chinese drive to induce Taiwan to restore links

From David Bonavia, Peking, June 3

The Chinese leadership has turned the funeral of Soong Ching-ling, widow of Sun Yat-sen, the founder of modern China, into one of its biggest propaganda offensives aimed at Taiwan.

Mme Soong was cremated last night at the Babaoshan cemetery. Her ashes will be interred beside those of her parents in Shanghai, where she lived most of her life.

It seems as if the forthcoming visit to Peking by Mr Alexander Haig, the United States Secretary of State, has given added impetus to the Chinese Government's campaign to isolate Taiwan politically and reintegrate the island province into the People's Republic.

Countless commentaries and personal reminiscences printed and broadcast here have served as reminders that Mme Soong was an active member of the Kuomintang (Nationalist Party) when it ruled most of China until 1949, albeit an adherent of the party's rebellious left wing.

Mme Soong's entire life has been used as a symbol of the need for Chinese people of any political persuasion to mend their differences and work for the good of the Chinese nation. Chia's efforts to show that it is taking a moderate and conciliatory line over Taiwan do not disguise the fact that there is considerable disappointment here over the Reagan Administration's intention of restoring some measure of closer links with the Kuomintang regime.

Peking has not neglected to

emphasize that its present alignment with the United States on many important world issues and growing bilateral ties are based on a strategic assessment of the world balance of forces.

This does not amount to an actual threat that China, if continually frustrated by American attitudes towards Taiwan, might think of moving back towards some sort of understanding with the Soviet Union and its allies.

The Peking leaders are well aware that it is not links with the United States which stand most in the way of the reintegration of Taiwan. More important, and harder to confront, are the high living standards and prosperous economy of Taiwan.

Many Chinese people on the mainland are puzzled at Taiwan's prosperity, since it contradicts all conventional thinking about the sure decline of capitalism and the superiority of the socialist economic system. It will be decades before China closes this gap.

So a Taiwan living in some form of political association with the mainland would have to be economically and socially guaranteed, somewhat as Hong Kong is now. This would place in doubt the whole purpose of reintegration.

In a report from Peking on May 28 the late Mme Soong Ching-ling, widow of Sun Yat-sen, and her sister, Mme Soong Mei-ling, widow of Chiang Kai-shek, were described as sisters, not daughters, of the late T. V. Soong.



Abstract canvas: A visitor papsing beside Kandinsky's 'Construction No 6' at the Pushkin Museum yesterday.

Moscow shows off secret pre-1930 art

From Michael Binyon, Moscow, June 3

One of the most important art exhibitions ever held in the Soviet Union opened here today, showing for the first time to most Russians the explosive post-revolutionary art that has been locked away for more than 50 years in the vaults of Soviet museums.

The long-awaited exhibition "Moscow-Paris 1900-1930" is the Soviet version of the immensely successful exhibition "Paris-Moscow" at the Pompidou Centre in Paris two years ago, which brought together the works of the world's two most important centres of avant garde art of the epoch.

Almost half the Russian works on display have never been on public view here before.

The comprehensive exhibition at Moscow's Pushkin Museum comprises more than 2,500 paintings, sketches, theatrical and costume designs, architectural models and plans, sculptures and posters of an era that was extraordinary in both Russia and France for its vitality and innovation.

But about 1930, at the grip of Stalinism began to strangle Soviet intellectual life, the exuberant flowering came to an end in Russia, many of the painters having left the country and others forced to conform to the new strictures of socialist realism.

In recent years, however, the Soviet authorities have begun cautiously to acknowledge and rediscover this great heritage, and there has been a quiet but steady rehabilitation of such artists as Chagall, Kandinsky, Malevich, Tatlin and Yvon.

Some of their paintings now hang in Soviet galleries in Moscow and Leningrad. A new section of Moscow's Tretyakov Gallery is to be built to house many of the others.

The exhibition, which will run until October, has expected to have a profound influence on Soviet painting today, and to shock many Russians with the range of what had already been accomplished so long ago.

Nevertheless the organizers, aware of the sensitivity of the works, refused to say how many were on view for the first time or guarantee that they will remain on public display after the exhibition.

The Soviet version of the exhibition differs from the one at the Pompidou Centre in several

ways. First, by Soviet request, there are more French works represented—Impressionist and avant garde painters such as Picasso, Braque, Matisse, Renoir, Cézanne, Marquet, Delaunay and Derain, architects such as Le Corbusier, Lurçat and Mallet-Stevens as well as designers, stage and ballet artists.

Second, the Moscow exhibition does not give the context of the works, their history or significance. Whereas in Paris the paintings were grouped according to the development of themes and ideas, in Moscow the order is more traditional with little attempt to show the intellectual relationships between the epoch, its politics and the artists.

Only 27,000 catalogues have been printed, and none was available even six hours before the official opening.

Third, some of the more controversial Russian painters appear to have been deliberately hidden away in corners. Two arresting cubist-abstract works by an artist almost unknown here, I. Filonov, are of political interest—one is entitled "The formula of the Petrograd proletariat"—but both are easily missed.

A number of the Soviet post-revolutionary posters, slogans, idealized designs for workers' dwellings, utilitarian palaces of labour and centres for workers' culture have a naive enthusiasm and political commitment that is ironic and disturbing in view of subsequent political developments.

Others, showing Lenin, Red Army soldiers, steelworkers, steam trains and street scenes have long been the only works representing the period in Soviet galleries.

The Soviet organizers declared that the aim of the collection was "to show as fully as possible a picture of the artistic culture of Russia and France in this difficult and critical period in the history of humanity and art, where the canvas even was the great October socialist revolution in Russia."

There are indeed vivid depictions of change and crisis: the familiar "Boy on a red horse" by Petrov-Vodkin as well as the futuristic designs for the young Soviet state, the "Suprematism" of Malevich's square canvas of black paint and the political optimism of Yvon's "New planet" showing a giant red ball in the sky rising above the toiling masses and putting the other suns to shame.

Mr Plavin's words "From the junk pile" are a stark contrast to the high rate of inspections on the buses, which means that other kinds of carrying cannot be maintained so often. "They are using bays that would be used for other cars," Mr Plavin explained. "And extra people are needed to manoeuvre the cars in and out of the bays."

A parallel misfortune occurred with a fleet of new buses, built to the Federal Government's specifications, that came into service last year and were quickly enough withdrawn. To have ended, their frames were lighter than traditional buses—too light, as it turned out.

Their chassis cracked and the engine dropped from one while it was carrying passengers. The serious state of the buses, now highlighted last month, a few weeks before the start of summer's high humidity, when the MTA announced that it would not switch on bus air-conditioning until the temperature reached 80°F, which happens on scarcely more than a dozen days every year.

The reason is that air-conditioners increase fuel consumption and need more maintenance than most other parts. There was a public outcry, and the MTA relented to the extent of saying it would be left to drivers to decide when it was hot enough for air conditioning.

Mr Plavin explained that not only do air conditioners break down too often but they also cause dissension among passengers, some of whom find them uncomfortable. This being a combative city, arguments erupt about whether they should be switched off or on. Dissenters open windows—placing more strain on the machines and leading to still more breakdowns.

In a letter last month to state and city officials, Mr Richard Ravitch, the MTA chairman, said that \$14,000m would be needed over the next 10 years to arrest the system's deterioration. He forecast a deficit of \$383m for the next fiscal year.

"In the absence of additional subsidies," he wrote, "our inflation-driven deficit would, through this decade, require automatic fare increases of approximately 20 per cent a year."

The flat fare at present is 60 cents for a bus or subway journey almost anywhere in the city—quite cheap by the standards of other systems in America and abroad. If Mr Ravitch's estimate is correct, this could go up to more than \$3 by the end of the decade.

External factors conspired to make things worse. A new type of subway carriage was introduced, with clean plastic seats, working air-conditioners and doors that chimed melodically before closing. Sadly, they were soon found to have a structural defect in the undercarriage and they too started breaking down. They are still in service but have been withdrawn for inspection several times a week.

To replace them, worn-out carriages have been pulled in

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Yet the people who work and live in these glossy new buildings travel to and from them on the most nightmarish transport systems in the world. New York's subways and buses, the underground rail system, are an evil-smelling disgrace and it is a moot point whether the trains that travel on them break down more or less often than the crowded, crawling buses on the avenues overhead.

Everyone in the city, state and even the federal Government agrees that New York cannot prosper without a functioning and reliable system of mass transport. Yet in the climate of lower taxes and reduced government spending, where is the money to be found to make the necessary improvements?

Nobody can remember when travelling on the subway here was anything but a trial, but conditions have grown demonstrably worse in the last two or three years for a precise reason. When the city was sliding towards bankruptcy in the mid-1970s one of the economies made was to defer maintenance on the already crumbling plant and equipment.

"They stopped doing certain kinds of preventive maintenance," says Mr David Plavin, executive director of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA), the joint state and city body that runs the subway and buses. "Out of 40,000 maintenance men they lost about 5,000. The frequency of inspections was reduced."

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Arrigo Levi: A Personal View

Nuclear credibility gap is widening

A dangerous gap has grown between the extreme pre-occupation of Western defence circles with the increasing military imbalance in the heart of Europe, and the spreading mood of indifference and even outright neutralism in some of the leading European nations.

Just as great is the contradiction between the efforts by the governments of these countries (especially West Germany) to convince their supporters of the need to resist the Soviet military threat by carrying out the "Euro-missile" decision, and the relative weakness of the actions taken or planned in the wider field of defence, for example by Britain, and others.

One leading Nato commander describes the present situation thus: "The imbalance has been increasing in the last 10 years. We have now been outdistanced by the Soviet Union in most fields. They still outnumber us two to one in fundamental weapons while qualitatively they have become much stronger than we were."

As a result, "the Warsaw Pact has now surpassed Nato in all categories of weapons and the Soviets in spite of economic problems, are not decreasing the rate of growth of their military expenditure. Even the Afghanistan operation has had no visible effect upon forces facing us in Europe."

"We cannot gauge precisely how they might use such power but we know that they are capable and willing to use force, and we still believe that the single most important factor in determining their actions will be the degree of expected resistance by us."

Those who bear the responsibility for Nato do not hide their view that our claimed strategy of the flexible response (which demands Nato to be able to answer a Soviet attack at any level) is not very credible today, because of weaknesses in reserves, manpower, ammunition, and to the fading of our former qualitative superiority. What we really have today is a "delayed tripwire" strategy.

This means that a supposed conventional attack from the East could not be resisted for long (could we face the "second echelon"?) without Nato having to employ some nuclear weapons.

This is the present situation, in spite of the fact that the Nato powers have spent a great deal on modernization. Unfortunately, there have been many slippages, reductions and cancellations of essential programmes; too many commitments have become overdue promises.

According to Nato commanders, the situation is not

unmanageable yet and we could re-establish the credibility of our deterrent capability just by maintaining the programmes for modernization which have already been agreed and for the new Theatre Nuclear Forces (the Euro-missiles).

These remain Nato's number one priority: By threatening Soviet territory from European bases. The danger of a Russian attack against Europe, including by nuclear weapons, is reduced.

The possibility of such a pre-emptive strike cannot be ignored. The Russians have spoken too often in the past of the fact that they might have to "deal imperialism a decisive blow". At present, they might hope to be able to destroy Nato power in Europe (with the help of their new SS20s) without fear of an American strategic reply, since this would expose American territory to a fatal Soviet second strike.

By recouping the European theatre with United States strategic forces, as the experts say, the new Euro-missiles will greatly reduce the danger of a Soviet nuclear first strike against allied forces in Europe. But this would still not be enough to re-establish our deterrent.

At present, Nato inferiority in the conventional field would only too soon force the Supreme Allied Commander in Europe to ask the political leaders for permission to use nuclear weapons against a conventional attack, instead of resisting it with conventional forces, thus shifting to the other side the impossible decision of a nuclear escalation.

So, we should now strengthen considerably our conventional forces as well, if we really want to give credibility to a strategy of flexible response. "We can do it if we make up our mind to do it," say the Nato commanders. They add: "We do not ask for more than we have been promised, but we do ask for what we have been promised." Will they get it?

Unfortunately, Western public opinion seems to be blind to these warnings, and blind to the difficult economic situation they all face. To justify higher expenses, an all-out effort ought to be undertaken by the leaders of the alliance to inform the public about the real dangers of the present military imbalance. Of course, making known the truth would make the Russians feel superior, and this would also be dangerous.

But is it not more dangerous to lull the public into a false sense of security, which will lead to a further worsening of the present imbalance?

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Defectors accuse CIA of breaking resettlement deal

Washington, June 3—Two Romanian diplomats who defected to the United States have accused the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) of breaking promises to resettle them in return for giving secrets about Romania.

The two are: Mr Nicolae Horodincea, aged 35, formerly third secretary at the Romanian Embassy in Washington; and Mr Nicola Traian, aged 32, who held the same rank at the mission in Islamabad.

The CIA has declined to comment on their allegations. Mr Horodincea, his wife and three-year-old son were given asylum in March, 1980, after he drove into nearby Fort Belvoir, Virginia. His wife and son have since returned to Romania.

Mr Traian defected in November, 1979, with his wife and two children. He said he had

been the Romanian intelligence agency station chief in Islamabad.

The main complaint of both men was that after months of giving secrets and while they were still learning new professions, CIA support was barely above subsistence level.

They said the agency cut off health and child education benefits despite their inability to make up the losses. Because nothing was ever put in writing, they felt at the mercy of their resettlement officer.

Mr Traian is now on a CIA retainer of \$20,000 (£10,000) a year. Mr Horodincea, with a smaller family, receives \$16,000 annually.

In addition, each received \$50 for each day of debriefing and a lump sum of \$16,000 to cover furniture and belongings left in Romania.

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City needs £6,600m New York transport system a nightmare

From Michael Leapman, New York, June 3

Nowhere do the squalor and squalor of the city more fully manifest themselves than in New York. In the middle of town, east of Fifth Avenue, sparkling new office and apartment towers spring constantly from the Manhattan bedrock, each more opulent than the last.

Yet the people who work and live in these glossy new buildings travel to and from them on the most nightmarish transport systems in the world. New York's subways and buses, the underground rail system, are an evil-smelling disgrace and it is a moot point whether the trains that travel on them break down more or less often than the crowded, crawling buses on the avenues overhead.

Everyone in the city, state and even the federal Government agrees that New York cannot prosper without a functioning and reliable system of mass transport. Yet in the climate of lower taxes and reduced government spending, where is the money to be found to make the necessary improvements?

Nobody can remember when travelling on the subway here was anything but a trial, but conditions have grown demonstrably worse in the last two or three years for a precise reason. When the city was sliding towards bankruptcy in the mid-1970s one of the economies made was to defer maintenance on the already crumbling plant and equipment.

"They stopped doing certain kinds of preventive maintenance," says Mr David Plavin, executive director of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA), the joint state and city body that runs the subway and buses. "Out of 40,000 maintenance men they lost about 5,000. The frequency of inspections was reduced."

The result was that more trains and buses broke down. Non-essential equipment such as air conditioners was seldom repaired, so passengers stifled in the summer. Tunnels were not cleared of rubbish, so trains would catch fire as sparks ignited mounds of waste paper.

External factors conspired to make things worse. A new type of subway carriage was introduced, with clean plastic seats, working air-conditioners and doors that chimed melodically before closing. Sadly, they were soon found to have a structural defect in the undercarriage and they too started breaking down. They are still in service but have been withdrawn for inspection several times a week.

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Mr Plavin's words "From the junk pile" are a stark contrast to the high rate of inspections on the buses, which means that other kinds of carrying cannot be maintained so often. "They are using bays that would be used for other cars," Mr Plavin explained. "And extra people are needed to manoeuvre the cars in and out of the bays."

A parallel misfortune occurred with a fleet of new buses, built to the Federal Government's specifications, that came into service last year and were quickly enough withdrawn. To have ended, their frames were lighter than traditional buses—too light, as it turned out.

Their chassis cracked and the engine dropped from one while it was carrying passengers. The serious state of the buses, now highlighted last month, a few weeks before the start of summer's high humidity, when the MTA announced that it would not switch on bus air-conditioning until the temperature reached 80°F, which happens on scarcely more than a dozen days every year.

The reason is that air-conditioners increase fuel consumption and need more maintenance than most other parts. There was a public outcry, and the MTA relented to the extent of saying it would be left to drivers to decide when it was hot enough for air conditioning.

Mr Plavin explained that not only do air conditioners break down too often but they also cause dissension among passengers, some of whom find them uncomfortable. This being a combative city, arguments erupt about whether they should be switched off or on. Dissenters open windows—placing more strain on the machines and leading to still more breakdowns.

In a letter last month to state and city officials, Mr Richard Ravitch, the MTA chairman, said that \$14,000m would be needed over the next 10 years to arrest the system's deterioration. He forecast a deficit of \$383m for the next fiscal year.

"In the absence of additional subsidies," he wrote, "our inflation-driven deficit would, through this decade, require automatic fare increases of approximately 20 per cent a year."

The flat fare at present is 60 cents for a bus or subway journey almost anywhere in the city—quite cheap by the standards of other systems in America and abroad. If Mr Ravitch's estimate is correct, this could go up to more than \$3 by the end of the decade.

New Jersey swings right

From Michael Leapman, New York, June 3

The overcrowded primary election for Governor of New Jersey resulted yesterday in a victory for candidates on the conservative wings of their parties.

Mr James Florio, a congressman, easily beat 12 rivals for the Democratic nomination, gaining 26 per cent of the vote. His closest rival, Mr Robert Roe, another congressman, received only 15 per cent. Mr Kenneth Gibson, the black

Mayor of Newark, came third. Mr Florio was the only candidate supported by the National Rifle Association.

Mr Thomas Kean, former Speaker of the New Jersey Assembly, won an equally close fight for the Republican field of eight. He received 31 per cent, compared with 21 per cent for Mr Lawrence Kramer, the Mayor of Paterson, who was second.

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World's military expenditure tops £250,000m

By Henry Stanhope, Defence Correspondent

World military spending rose to more than £250,000m last year. A disturbing trend was the rising share of the Third World which nearly doubled from 9 to 16 per cent during the 1970s.

The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute in its annual report refers to "an unjustifiable and frantic waste of resources which could have had a considerable impact on the living standards of the average citizen if directed to civilian ends."

Military spending is rising at an annual rate of 2 per cent in real terms and threatens to outpace the world's sluggish economic output during the early 1980s. The institute singles out Britain as the only European Nato country which has recently had a military spending boom, but the superpowers remain well ahead of anyone else.

The conventional arms trade increased drastically during the past decade with the United States and the Soviet Union between them accounting for 75 per cent of the total exports. But France has taken a noticeably increased share and together with Britain, West Germany and Italy provided 22 per cent of the world's military exports during the 1970s. There was a substantial increase on previous decades, the survey says.

About 130 wars have been waged since the Second World War. 50 of them during the 1970s. These were fought almost exclusively in the Third World with weapons supplied by the industrialized countries. At present, the Third World itself accounts for only 2 or 3 per cent of the arms exported. This share, however, is rising with Israel, Brazil, South Africa, India and Argentina as the principal new suppliers.

Nearly half of the Third World's total arms imports go to the Middle East. Six of the eight main Third World arms importers belong to this region, whose strategic position and oil

resources attract the interests of the big powers.

On the other hand, the Third World's share of the arms import market fell to about 70 per cent during the last three years of the decade while the proportion sold to other industrialized countries went up to 30 per cent. This trend is likely to continue during the 1980s together with the increasing sophistication of weapons.

The institute points out, however, that while nuclear weapons account for a smaller share of the world's arms trade, they pose the greater threat to mankind. Recent improvements in quality mean that the latest missiles look more suitable for fighting a nuclear war than older models.

Reports of two new types of intercontinental ballistic missile being developed by the Soviet Union include one which resembles the American SS-20. The deployment of the SS-20 missile continued too and about 180 were in position by the end of last year, aimed at targets in Europe and China.

The institute predicts that the most important development in space during the 1980s will involve anti-satellite weapons. Also significant, however, is the development of the superpowers in ballistic missile defences.

Since 1970 some 1,801 military satellites have been launched, which is 75 per cent of the total number. Last year 103 military satellites were launched, including 89 launched by the Soviet Union but only 14 by the United States.

The greatest disappointment last year, according to the institute, was the failure of the American Congress to ratify the second Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty (SALT 2). Without success in the SALT talks it is hard to expect real progress being made in other arms control negotiations, the survey says.

World Armaments and Disarmament. Sipri Year Book 1981 (Taylor and Francis, London, WC1N 2ET, £19.50).

Souvenirs of Tejero cult upset Spaniards

From Harry Debellus, Madrid, June 3

Madrid's city hall, controlled by a leftist coalition, is upset about the street sale of souvenirs and mementoes of the seizure of the Spanish Parliament on February 23 by Lieutenant Colonel Antonio Tejero of the Civil Guard. The National Police, however, do not appear to be concerned.

According to the monarchist daily ABC of Madrid, the municipal police took two street vendors into custody behind the headquarters of the National Police at Madrid's Puerta del Sol Square on Saturday after they saw them selling key chains, photographs, sticks and other items exalting Colonel Tejero.

Last Monday, the newspaper added, the municipal police picked up another man who was selling similar souvenirs. All three were freed within hours after appearing before a police magistrate, who preferred no charges against them.

The failure of the Government to prosecute the souvenir peddlars prompted Señor José Barriocano, a deputy mayor of Madrid, to make verbal protests to the Civil Governor of Madrid, the chief of the National Police and the Interior Minister.

A spokesman for the city hall said Señor Barriocano expressed "his puzzlement and concern over the less than energetic and excessively benevolent attitude of the state authorities towards what he considers 'activities representing an apology for criminal acts'."



Gorilla psychology: This baby gorilla born in a zoo at Stoneham, Massachusetts, was ignored by its mother at birth despite attempts by behavioural psychologists to teach the art of motherhood.

The 6lb 12oz male which will be raised by a human surrogate, is now doing fine and eating heartily. However, the mother is not regarded as a poor parent. Born at the Cincinnati Zoo, she was one of six babies rejected by her mother and had no one to emulate.

Bani-Sadr accuses investigators of bias

From Tony Allaway, Tehran, June 3

President Bani-Sadr of Iran has accused the three-man commission set up to resolve his feud with Muslim fundamentalists of taking part in a plot to remove him from office.

He also indicated today that if the present conditions prevailed he would himself step down once the Gulf war ended. The President is Iran's commander-in-chief.

"The commission has been turned into a means of censoring the President and fully participating in the plan to remove him," Mr Bani-Sadr said in a letter to Hojatoleslam Eshraqi, the son-in-law of Ayatollah Khomeini the national leader who serves as the President's representative on the commission.

The letter was written yesterday in response to the commission's decision to censure the President and report him for possible prosecution.

In a further letter to the hojatoleslam today, the President complained that some of the statements of the commission spokesman, Hojatoleslam Yazdi, were "so opposite to the truth they astonished me."

He alleged that other officials "not only disregard the law but violate it and nobody cares to do anything about it."

"As in the last regime every time some people are beaten up and attacked they are also found to be the guilty ones."

Sri Lanka overtures embarrass Asean

By David Watts, Bangkok, June 3

Sri Lanka's intention of joining the Association of South-East Asian Nations (Asean) has presented the group with a ticklish diplomatic problem.

The association has said, since its inception 14 years ago, that it was open to applications from other interested countries. There are no strict rules about joining.

Brunei and Papua New Guinea are expected to attend as observers, the annual meeting of the Asean foreign ministers in Manila this month. It is likely that Brunei will be admitted as a member when it attains full independence from Britain in 1983.

There is a standing invitation to Burma to attend the annual meeting as an observer, but it has not been taken up. Brunei and Burma would make logical additions to Asean, but the case of Sri Lanka is different and its determination to join has come as something of a surprise.

The idea has been mooted by Colombo before, but has never been pursued to any great extent. This time the Sri Lankans are pressing ahead despite discouraging unofficial comments from Asean officials and statesmen. Diplomatically Asean is committed to study the situation seriously.

Sri Lanka has already said that it is confident that it will become a member of the group, despite statements from President Marcos of the Philippines and Tengku Ahmad Rithauden, the Malaysian Foreign Minister, who said Sri Lanka's geographical position alone made it ineligible.

President Marcos' like other leading Asean figures said he was not opposed to the expansion of the group in principle, but others thought it more urgent to strengthen Asean as it stood.

In over-playing its hand, Sri Lanka appears to be unaware of the complications that would be created if it joined Asean and of the diplomatic embarrassment it might cause.

Asean has attracted attention by its appearance of unity and its deft mobilization of support at the United Nations for the Government of Democratic Kampuchea. The appearance of unity, however, masks fundamental differences of approach by the member countries in private.

As a south Asian country with neither a direct interest in nor contribution to make to South-East Asian diplomacy, Sri Lanka would not only further complicate an already complicated international diplomatic dispute, but bring additional permutations of its own. Asean would most likely find itself becoming involved with the politics of the sub-continent when relations with India are already cool because of the Cambodian question.

So far the Sri Lankans have not explained why they are showing such interest when they themselves are promoting the idea of a similar grouping further west, which would involve India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal and the Maldives.

Precisely how the Asean countries will manage to find a polite way of saying no is not yet clear.

Rita Hayworth's manager says she is senile

By Ivor Davis, Los Angeles, June 3

Rita Hayworth, one of Hollywood's most glamorous actresses of the forties and fifties, is suffering from a fast-developing case of senility and cannot take care of herself, her business manager and lawyer claims.

Mr Leonard Monroe filed a petition here asking a court to appoint him as conservator of the actress and her estate worth some \$250,000 (about £125,000).

The petition says that Miss Hayworth, one of the most popular pinups of the Second World War, and considered one of the

most beautiful actresses in the film world, is suffering from Alzheimer's Disease, which is described as a quickly deteriorating form of senility. A hearing has been set for July 17.

The petition adds that the actress does not want to appear in films but does not oppose her solicitor's appointment.

Miss Hayworth has two daughters, Yasmine Aly Khan, the child of her marriage to the late Aly Khan, and Rebecca Walker, a child from her marriage to Orson Welles. She lives alone in Beverly Hills.

MPs call for inquiry into Zia murder

From Trevor Fishlock, Dacca, June 3

A demand was made in the Bangladesh Parliament today for a judicial and parliamentary inquiry into the murder of President Zia, to whom MPs paid tribute calling him the "architect of modern Bangladesh."

A military court of inquiry has already started an investigation but some people feel there should also be an independent one.

In Parliament today, Mr Mizanur Chowdhury, the leader of one faction of the Awami League opposition party, said there should also be an inquiry into the death of General Abul Manzur who headed the rebellion at Chittagong.

General Manzur is reported to have been killed on Monday, after he had been arrested while fleeing into the Chittagong hills.

Oslo bans professional boxing

Oslo, June 3. — Professional boxing will be banned in Norway before the Storting (Parliament) starts its summer recess on June 15. The ban does not affect amateur boxing.

The Lower House voted 54-24 in favour of the reform last night. The next voting in the Upper House is considered a formality.

After the ban is formally imposed, those staging professional boxing matches, taking part in such matches or even in training or exhibition matches can be punished with up to three months' imprisonment.

The Nordic Council called for a ban of professional boxing in the Nordic countries in 1969. Norway was the first country to comply with the request.

"The absence of professional boxing in Norway will be no big loss for our sports environment," Mr Einar Forde, the Education Minister, said during the debate before the Lower House vote.—AP.

Nigerians demand war in retaliation for border clash

From Karen Thapar, Lagos, June 3

Nigerians are clamouring for a punitive military expedition against Cameroon in retaliation for last month's border clash in which five Nigerian soldiers were killed.

A presidential spokesman admitted in a statement issued yesterday that President Shagari was restraining calls for war made among others by the Speaker of the House of Representatives. The Tribune in a leading article called for retaliatory action "not tomorrow, not even later today, but now."

Professor Ishaya Audu, the External Affairs Minister, in an initial statement had said that if Nigeria was pushed to the wall it would fight back. In a surprise statement to the press, Alhaji Alkabi Oniyang, the Defence Minister, refused to rule out the possibility of war.

Last week, some 500 Lagos University students demonstrated outside the Cameroon Embassy chanting "War, war, we want war." One of their banners read: "To hell with African unity, kill Cameroon."

Several embassies' windows, cars and an outside compound wall were damaged.


Although according to diplomatic sources Nigeria was quick to apologise for the incident, Cameroon was said to be avenging the wives and children of its diplomats from Lagos.

In the meantime, allegations in the press have been fueling the fever of national belligerence. There have been claims that Cameroon forces have encroached on at least 10 Nigerian border villages, that they were massing forces for a military confrontation and that they are prospecting for oil in Nigerian waters.

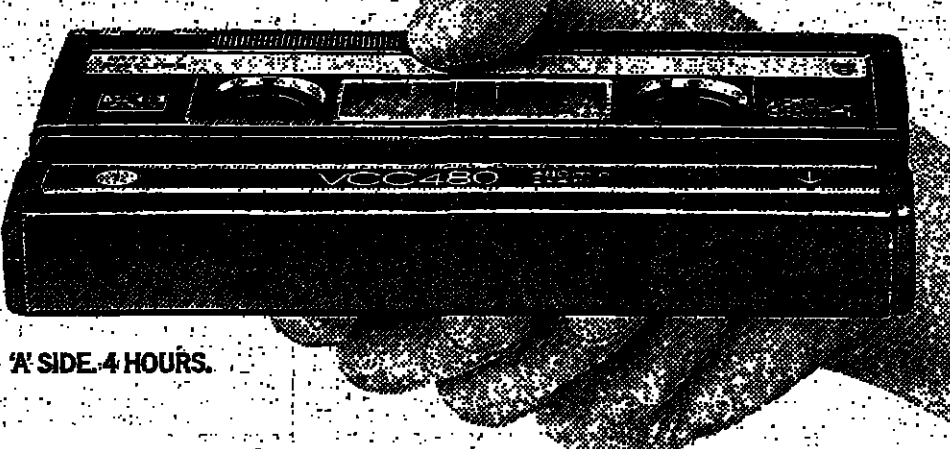
A recent press statement made by the chairman of the House of Representatives' defence committee has supported the claim that Cameroon is preparing for war.

The fact that in reply to a Nigerian note demanding an unqualified apology, full reparations and punishment of the guilty soldiers, the Cameroonians only expressed "regret" has added insult to injury.

Nigeria has rejected the Cameroon reply reiterating its earlier demands in a second protest note. Since then there has been no further response from Cameroon.



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To improve your video picture Philips invented a totally new tracking system: Dynamic Track Following (DTF).

DTF actually lays down a guide signal during recording.

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VIDEO 2000. If you've been waiting for Video, it's arrived.

BR sells hotels but keeps third interest

Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Transport, announced in the Commons that the British Railways Board was transferring its ownership of the Glenaeles Hotel and the Glenaeles Hotel in Edinburgh to a new private sector company.

He said it was a good deal for the board and the people working for the hotels, but Mr John Prescott said for the Opposition that the deal should be investigated by the Public Accounts Committee of the House of Commons.

Mr Fowler (Sutton Coldfield, C) said the Glenaeles Hotel and the Glenaeles Hotel in Edinburgh were part of a group of hotels owned by the British Railways Board. The Glenaeles Hotel in Edinburgh was a three-star hotel and the Glenaeles Hotel in Edinburgh was a three-star hotel.

Under these powers (he went on) the board plan to transfer to a new private sector company the Glenaeles Hotel and the Glenaeles Hotel in Edinburgh. The Glenaeles Hotel in Edinburgh was a three-star hotel and the Glenaeles Hotel in Edinburgh was a three-star hotel.

A shareholding of this kind requires my consent and on the material available to me at this time, I am not minded to give my consent to such an acquisition.

I welcome this step for bringing private capital into the develop-

TOURISM

ment of the board's subsidiaries. And I hope the plan will be to the benefit of their customers, their staff and the tourist industry in Scotland. (Conservative cheers)

Mr Prescott (Kingston upon Hull, Lab): Will he make it clear that the Glenaeles Hotel in Edinburgh is a three-star hotel and the Glenaeles Hotel in Edinburgh is a three-star hotel?

Mr Fowler: It will be a three-star hotel and the Glenaeles Hotel in Edinburgh is a three-star hotel.

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clear advantage for the hotel industry. There is no question of any having pushed. My role is to ensure that the Glenaeles Hotel in Edinburgh is a three-star hotel and the Glenaeles Hotel in Edinburgh is a three-star hotel.

Mr Michael Ancram (Edinburgh, South, C): His decision will be warmly welcomed in Scotland. (Conservative cheers and Labour protests)

Mr Fowler: It will be a three-star hotel and the Glenaeles Hotel in Edinburgh is a three-star hotel.

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Mr Fowler: It will be a three-star hotel and the Glenaeles Hotel in Edinburgh is a three-star hotel.

Fowler: Consent given

Will he give some assurance that the Glenaeles Hotel in Edinburgh is a three-star hotel and the Glenaeles Hotel in Edinburgh is a three-star hotel?

Mr Fowler: It will be a three-star hotel and the Glenaeles Hotel in Edinburgh is a three-star hotel.

Prescott: Inquiry needed

We are talking about proceeds of over £10m. This will be used to pay for shares in the new company.

The British Railways Board will not only have a capital sum but they will have a continuing interest in this new company. They will have a particular interest in the Glenaeles Hotel in Edinburgh.

Electrification statement soon

RAILWAYS

Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Transport, announced in the Commons that the British Railways Board was transferring its ownership of the Glenaeles Hotel and the Glenaeles Hotel in Edinburgh to a new private sector company.

He said it was a good deal for the board and the people working for the hotels, but Mr John Prescott said for the Opposition that the deal should be investigated by the Public Accounts Committee of the House of Commons.

Mr Fowler (Sutton Coldfield, C) said the Glenaeles Hotel and the Glenaeles Hotel in Edinburgh were part of a group of hotels owned by the British Railways Board. The Glenaeles Hotel in Edinburgh was a three-star hotel and the Glenaeles Hotel in Edinburgh was a three-star hotel.

Under these powers (he went on) the board plan to transfer to a new private sector company the Glenaeles Hotel and the Glenaeles Hotel in Edinburgh. The Glenaeles Hotel in Edinburgh was a three-star hotel and the Glenaeles Hotel in Edinburgh was a three-star hotel.

A shareholding of this kind requires my consent and on the material available to me at this time, I am not minded to give my consent to such an acquisition.

I welcome this step for bringing private capital into the develop-

Free vote on seat belts

There would be a free vote for MPs and ministers if an amendment to the Transport Bill making seat belt wearing compulsory, Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Transport, said during questions. The Government would respect the decision.

He was answering Mr John Biddell (Leicester, West, Tamworth, C) who said: The issue of the compulsory wearing of seat belts divides parties and families. It is an amendment which is being moved in the Transport Bill to make it compulsory, would there be a free vote on the issue in this House?

Mr Fowler: Yes.

Mr Fowler: I am grateful for your question. The Government will respect the decision of the House.

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EEC not turning its back on world poor

OVERSEAS AID

The EEC's aid policy and associated trade arrangements were solid evidence that the Community and its member states were not turning their backs on the world's poor when fashioning their own common policies, Lord Carrington, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, said during a debate on the report of the European Communities Committee on development aid.

Lord Carrington said the Community provided to so many countries in aid, trade preferences and investment could never be provided by Britain alone, he added.

It was yet another solid reason why the Community, with Britain's help, grew every day stronger on the world's stage and yet another reason why the fact that national concerns and those of the Community were increasingly not in conflict but in harmony.

He had been invited to note the Committee's view that as and when more funds became available the first priority should be to devote them to community programmes and other multilateral agencies. The Government also thought that priority must where possible be given to bilateral aid which would maintain the emphasis on this.

It considered that proposals for increased multilateral aid, including proposals from the Community, must be taken into account but it attached high value to the Community's aid programme.

The Government would continue to press for development and practical improvements. One area in which there was scope for further development was in the provision of a Community development policy on a world-wide basis.

Like the European Communities Committee of the House of Commons, the Government would continue to press for development and practical improvements. One area in which there was scope for further development was in the provision of a Community development policy on a world-wide basis.

The Community's aid programme was not, and should not be, run for the benefit of the industries of member states, but the Government would like to see British companies playing their due part in the implementation of the programme. Wherever it took, a fair share of contracts won by British firms under the fourth European development fund was, at a percentage, less than half the share of the cost of the fund.

Although there was still a long way to go, the British share of contracts was clearly not the only one. Britain was second only to West Germany in the share of its manufactured imports came from developing countries.

Britain's aid programme would amount to over £1,000m in this financial year.

Lord Goronwy-Roberts, for the Opposition, said they would like an assurance that Britain's aid contribution through the Community would be at least one per cent of its GNP at present. On the figures, during the next three or four years it would decline.

It was essential for the area of assistance to be extended. This was not only because the Lome countries were clearly not the only ones which needed EEC aid, but because the third world was a challenge to their humanity and an opportunity for their enterprise.

Rubbish to talk of pass law society

NATIONALITY BILL

In the British Nationality Bill the Government have moved an amendment to the Bill to ensure that every child born in Britain should be a British citizen, Mr Roy Hattersley, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, said at the opening of the second day of the Bill's report stage.

Mr Hattersley (Birmingham, Sandwell, Lab) moved an amendment to the Bill to ensure that every child born in Britain should be a British citizen. He said that the Bill would ensure that every child born in Britain should be a British citizen.

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Powell sees danger of race conflict

Mr Enoch Powell (South Down, Off U) said that the Government had not yet addressed itself to the danger of race conflict. He said that the Government had not yet addressed itself to the danger of race conflict.

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Need for a connexion with UK

Mr Timothy Bateson, Minister of State, Home Office (Aylesbury, C) said that the Government's proposal that in future a child born in this country should be a British citizen only if one parent was a British citizen or settled, was a sensible and reasonable proposal.

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Woolmer: Genuine anger

Will he therefore accept a message from my constituents which sums up the position: "Don't give 'em the money, Barney."

Mr Bateson (Hounslow, Brentford and Isleworth, C): I am grateful for the message from my constituents which sums up the position: "Don't give 'em the money, Barney."

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Militants urged not to extend action

The Government should take its pay dispute with civil servants to arbitration, Labour MP's urged Mr Robert Adley, Minister of State for the Home Office, said during questions. The Government should take its pay dispute with civil servants to arbitration.

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Supporters a disgrace

House would wish to express its feelings of repugnance and shame at the behaviour of some of our football supporters abroad. (Cheers.)

The Earl of Avon: While I cannot speak for the entire House, I can speak for the members of the House who have been at the football matches. I can speak for the members of the House who have been at the football matches.

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Tennis

The admirable Miss Hanika finds measure of an outstanding talent

From Rex Bellamy
Tennis Correspondent
Paris, June 3

Andrea Jaeger, from Illinois, will celebrate her 18th birthday by playing Sylvia Hanika, from Munich, in the semi-final round of the French women's singles championship here tomorrow. Miss Hanika today completed an admirable and astonishing 6-2, 6-0 win over Martina Navratilova.

Miss Jaeger has relatives in Germany because her mother was born there, and the players have something else in common: both have played in the Wimbledon Championships. Miss Jaeger won all eight of her previous matches, at the cost of only one set, but she will be the first time they have met on clay. The winner will oppose Chris Lloyd or Hana Mandlikova.

Miss Hanika, aged 21, is a muscular left-hander who commands an available variety of spin and, on this occasion, volleyed with crisp assurance. She has worked hard to improve the tactical aspect of her game. Miss Hanika served well, too. She lost merely one service game, and conceded only five points in the eight others.

Miss Hanika led 4-1 when rain stopped play last evening. There was a brief respite but the match would be reversed today. In addition to the high quality of her service, she was accurate.

Hanika was discreet in choosing her shots, and sound in playing them.

The most influential feature of her game, though, was her ability to hit to a length with high-bouncing top spin. This meant that Miss Navratilova had to move to the back of the court with the ball buzzing around her ears. She could not attack that sort of shot. She could only return it with a length in returning it, and Miss Hanika was quick to profit from anything short.

Thus was Miss Navratilova reduced to frustration, helplessness, and dejection. Every scrap of confidence drained out of her and she began to wilt even before the easier shots. Seidman has a player of her exceptional talents been so firmly outclassed.

The top seeds were beaten in both the men's and women's doubles events. The Wimbledon champions, Peter McNamara and Paul McNamee, are disappointed by the respected clay-court partnership of Heinz Günthard and Balazs Taroczy. Kathy Jordan and Anne Smith, who won the French and Wimbledon titles, were defeated by South African team, Rosalyn Fairbank and Tanya Harford, who had defeated the early morning system by winning the Swiss and German championships during the fortnight preceding Paris.

The epic drama of the day, though, was a singles match in which John McEnroe, the last to play, beat Jimmy Connors 4-6, 6-2, 4-6, 7-5, 6-3. The match was a tour de force, lasting four hours and 26 minutes, including a rain-break early in the fourth set. The tennis did not appear to grudge, because tactical range was limited (by clay-court standards), and the technique was too often flawed.

But in other respects—the unending, imposed on their hearts and minds and bodies by two fine players giving their all—the match was marvellously characterful and the tradition of these championships.

There was time to watch a first set in which Connors was the victor, a twitchy man who, nervous and a bit, tended to be erratic when hitting backhands—especially when he tried to save himself by leaping into the air to find a ball, and Connors, after two hours, engaged in a preliminary examination of the third set. Time to ponder exchanges of loopy drives which meant that each man, while hanging about between shots, could flex his

muscles, adjust his clothing, and consider the options open for dinner.

Time to take cover from the rain and, later, consider the psychological implications of Connors' angry reaction when umpire overruled a line judge's decision at the crisis of the fourth set. Time, eventually, to feel pleasure for Connors' player on the way up, and sympathy for Connors. At the age of 28, this modern sporting Cagney must be aware that, in spite of the lightning heat within him, he is unlikely to win the most arduous of all tennis championships.

How these Americans suffer at the Stade Roland Garros. They come here with big names and big games and think that plus effort should see them through. Like draughts, experts are exposed to these, they are flummoxed to find tennis far more complicated than they thought it should be.

After Connors' John McEnroe came on court. He was runner-up at Wimbledon and has been United States champion for two years. When rain stopped play this evening, Ivan Lendl was leading him 6-4, 6-4 but was serving at 3-3 and down in the third set, which suggested that McEnroe might at least attain the dignity of a set.

Tennis is a gamble, and you need to know the odds, varying according to court surfaces. Lendl is familiar with the clay-court game, but McEnroe is not. McEnroe was usually the pouter, Lendl the dealer.

McEnroe played some great clay-court points, using the drop shot and the backhand slice. He tried to suppress his inherent liking for quick points and, instead, spar patiently from the baseline, and most of the time, he was on the whole, not quite sound enough, nor wise enough, to win the match.

He had all the notes he needed but could not compose the tune that was almost on his mind.

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Clerc: further progress on the ascending trail

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Cycling

Odds favour Red Army soldier in Milk Race

By John Wilcockson

Faultless tactics by the Soviet and Norwegian teams on yesterday's morning trial for the Milk Race saw the Red Army soldier, Andrei Vokoski, aged 21, take over the race leadership from Zbigniew Szczęsowski, of Poland. The 75-mile stage from Scarborough to Middleborough was a tough test of endurance, with the Soviet team, led by Vokoski, and the Norwegian team, led by Vokoski, both showing exceptional form.

Unluckily to figure in this second group was the Soviet team, led by Vokoski, and the Norwegian team, led by Vokoski, both showing exceptional form. The Soviet team, led by Vokoski, and the Norwegian team, led by Vokoski, both showing exceptional form.

Despite a route that included a succession of rudimentary climbs, the Soviet team, led by Vokoski, and the Norwegian team, led by Vokoski, both showing exceptional form. The Soviet team, led by Vokoski, and the Norwegian team, led by Vokoski, both showing exceptional form.

The decisive action began as soon as the race turned off the Scarborough coast and headed for the Humber. The Soviet team, led by Vokoski, and the Norwegian team, led by Vokoski, both showing exceptional form. The Soviet team, led by Vokoski, and the Norwegian team, led by Vokoski, both showing exceptional form.

With three stages left, two of them in the remotest reaches of the Pennines, Waugh and Downs still have an outside chance of winning the Milk Race. The Soviet team, led by Vokoski, and the Norwegian team, led by Vokoski, both showing exceptional form. The Soviet team, led by Vokoski, and the Norwegian team, led by Vokoski, both showing exceptional form.

From then on the Scots dominated the game and scored another 23 points to boost their morale at exactly the right moment. The Soviet team, led by Vokoski, and the Norwegian team, led by Vokoski, both showing exceptional form. The Soviet team, led by Vokoski, and the Norwegian team, led by Vokoski, both showing exceptional form.

Irvine, for the second time in eight days, scored 24 points and was the inspiration of a side which is still not striking quite the right note. The Soviet team, led by Vokoski, and the Norwegian team, led by Vokoski, both showing exceptional form. The Soviet team, led by Vokoski, and the Norwegian team, led by Vokoski, both showing exceptional form.

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Football Flair may be important to Greenwood as well as the result

From Norman Fox
Budapest, June 3

As England's preparations for the crucial World Cup match against Hungary on Saturday were given impetus by their revival here, so Ron Greenwood, the manager, became more tetchy. But if his mood is related to the outlook of the players, it may prove to be an advantage, although England's prospects are that much dimmer after Romania's best Norway 1-0 in Bucharest this afternoon.

In the last few days training in the hot sun in Zurich was harder than some would have believed. The amount of talent available is minimal, for though the national team have some highly skilled players, the depth of quality is a problem. Whether the lessons were ever fully understood is doubtful, not merely in England but were in Hungary where a common complaint is that the players are not motivated to play for the national team, but for the money. The amount of talent available is minimal, for though the national team have some highly skilled players, the depth of quality is a problem.

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Romania lead group four

Bucharest, June 3.—Romania went to the top of the European qualifying group four for the World Cup with a 1-0 victory over Norway today. Romania, who drew 1-1 at Warsaw last week, led the table with six points from five games. Hungary are second with five points from three games and Saturday play England in Budapest.

Today the Romanians, playing in warm, overcast weather before a crowd of 60,000, showed a more attacking style than in their last game. They scored the only goal midway through the second half.

The Norwegians played a solid defence around Jan Rinnar Aas and the goalkeeper, Amundsen, which was able to curb the dangerous

CERTIFIED PPA DIVIDENDS
All dividends are subject to recovery.
FOR MATCHES PLAYED MAY 30th

VERNONS POOLS LIVERPOOL
3 TOP WINNERS WITH 21 PTS.
INCLUDED IN THIS WEEK'S PAYOUT OF
£358,502
FOREIGN GOES A PENNY

8 GOES A PENNY TREBLE CHANCE 5 DIVIDENDS
21 pts (Max) ... £2,494.00
20 pts ... £258.65
20 pts ... £24.30
19 pts ... £25.55
19 pts ... £1.70
Treble Chance Dividends to Units of 10.
Expense and Commission for 16th of May.

ZETTERS POOLS LONDON E.C.1
TOP WINNERS SHARE OVER
£608,998
TOP WINNERS EASIER AT 25-1P.
THE WORLD'S EASIEST TREBLE CHANCE

20 Pts ... £2,628.55
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LITTLEWOODS POOLS LIVERPOOL
Bus Inspector Mike Vicary from Southampton wins
£157,236

21 PTS (Max) ... £750,000.00
20 PTS ... £2,022.50
20 PTS ... £223.05
19 PTS ... £244.10
19 PTS ... £11.50
18 PTS ... £2.75
Treble Chance Dividends to Units of 10.
Expense and Commission for 16th of May.

Cochrane is sent off as Irish fall to penalty

Sweden 1 Northern Ireland 0

Terry Cochrane was sent off as Northern Ireland's World Cup dream blew up in an explosive group six qualifying match against Sweden in Stockholm last night.

Sweden's penalty taker, Bo Persson, scored the winning goal in the 45th minute. Cochrane was sent off in the 35th minute for a second yellow card. The match was a tactical battle, with Sweden's run of five games without victory since defeat by Spain last March being a factor.

Mr Greenwood said it was impossible to work on the mistakes that cost two goals "in a rush of blood against Sweden". He said that the mistakes were not due to a lack of skill, but to a lack of concentration.

Mr Greenwood says he has already decided on the team he will announce on Friday. There is a popular theory that the defence will have Watson and Thompson at the centre, but the rest of the side is under constant debate.

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Cricket All the omens favour victory by England

By John Woodcock
Cricket Correspondent

Although like most other grounds, Lord's has taken a terrible beating in the rain, the best part of an inch of rain fell in St John's Wood on Sunday night alone—the first of the three one-day internationals for the Prudential Trophy should start punctually there today (10.45) so long as it is not too much rain. The rain, however, was the hope yesterday as a harassed ground staff made preparations.

Since arriving in England on May 12 the Australians have spent most of their time under cover. Of the 12 days of first-class play they were due to have had by now, six have been washed out and only three have been played. The Australians have played only three first-class matches since they arrived in England. The first, against Glamorgan, was a one-day match. The second, against Warwickshire, was a two-day match. The third, against Lancashire, was a three-day match.

All this, combined with Australia's dismal record in limited-over cricket and the fact that Lillee, although he hopes to play, has a sore throat, means that England should win. Lillee is bound to affect him. Of the 17 one-day internationals England and Australia have played this year, England have won 12, including the last six, and lost only five.

Mr Bingham was reduced to throwing in the towel in the 33rd minute when the Swedish goalkeeper, Ravelli, made a magnificent save as the Swedish defence threatened to come to terms with the bumpy pitch, swirling wind, and rain. The Swedish defence threatened to come to terms with the bumpy pitch, swirling wind, and rain.

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Golden day for Essex and their captain

By Keith Macklin
Essex Correspondent

Essex, with five first innings wickets in hand, are 331 runs behind Lancashire. The sun gave us a glint of gold at Headingley and Essex prospered mightily as Yorkshire dropped their early wickets. It was a good day for Fletcher, who reached 1,000 runs in the first innings. He was joined by Moxon, who reached 1,000 runs in the second innings.

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Robinson and Todd put Notts on top

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Fowler sets Lancashire on the correct path

By Richard Sireston
Manchester Correspondent

Manchester, Surrey, with all first innings wickets in hand, are 331 runs behind Lancashire. The sun gave us a glint of gold at Headingley and Essex prospered mightily as Yorkshire dropped their early wickets. It was a good day for Fletcher, who reached 1,000 runs in the first innings. He was joined by Moxon, who reached 1,000 runs in the second innings.

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Strong field in golden jubilee event

By Mitchell Platt

Twelve months ago Bradford Council began to consider staging a special event to celebrate the golden jubilee of their municipal golf course at Bingley St. Ives. The celebration, which was held on the 10th of June, was a success. The event was attended by a large number of people, and the golf course was in excellent condition. The event was a success.

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Mrs Robertson has every answer on a gusty day

By John Hennessy
Golf Correspondent

Belle Robertson, of Scotland, easily won the stroke-play stage of the British Ladies' Amateur Golf Championship at Coway, yesterday. She was joined by Moxon, who reached 1,000 runs in the second innings.

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Shergar is in a master class of his own

Master Will

Streets ahead: Shirar and Walter Swinburn are coasting as their rivals take a roasting.

ie looks too

Too fast for Mr.

s Penny

Trainers to face

father Paul was saddling Sass
the Derby, Gay Kelleway, aged
was riding her first winner, Ab
field, in the Tebro Toys Lad
Derby Stakes, at Ripon yesterd

Copenhagen, June 3.—Ayub Kalule of Uganda could be in line to unify the junior middleweight championship if he retains his World Boxing Association title.

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Our Newmarket Correspondent

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NATIONAL LEAGUE: Pittsburgh **Basketball**

Athletics

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Ian McGeoch

Derek Parker

Margot Peters has written a readable, enjoyable and very long book which is at the same time a history of the women's movement and women's theatre. It is a history of the women's movement in the United States. The title is *Holledge in Innocent Flowers: Women in the Edwardian Theatre* (Virago, £9.95 and £4.50). Many characters appear in both books — Elizabeth Robbins, the actress and friend of Shaw, who was immune to Shaw's charm; he would address her as "Holy Elizabeth" and she was not amused; Edy Craig (Ellen Terry's daughter) and her *Princess Players*, Eleanor Marx, the Irish Archer, and the *Ordinary Women*, whose influence was immense. Julie Holledge writes from an uncomplainingly feminist point of view, and like Elizabeth Robbins doesn't care for Shaw in much. His image appears in reverse, which is, no doubt, salutary. Shaw, the entirely reasonable man, would have approved.

George Hill

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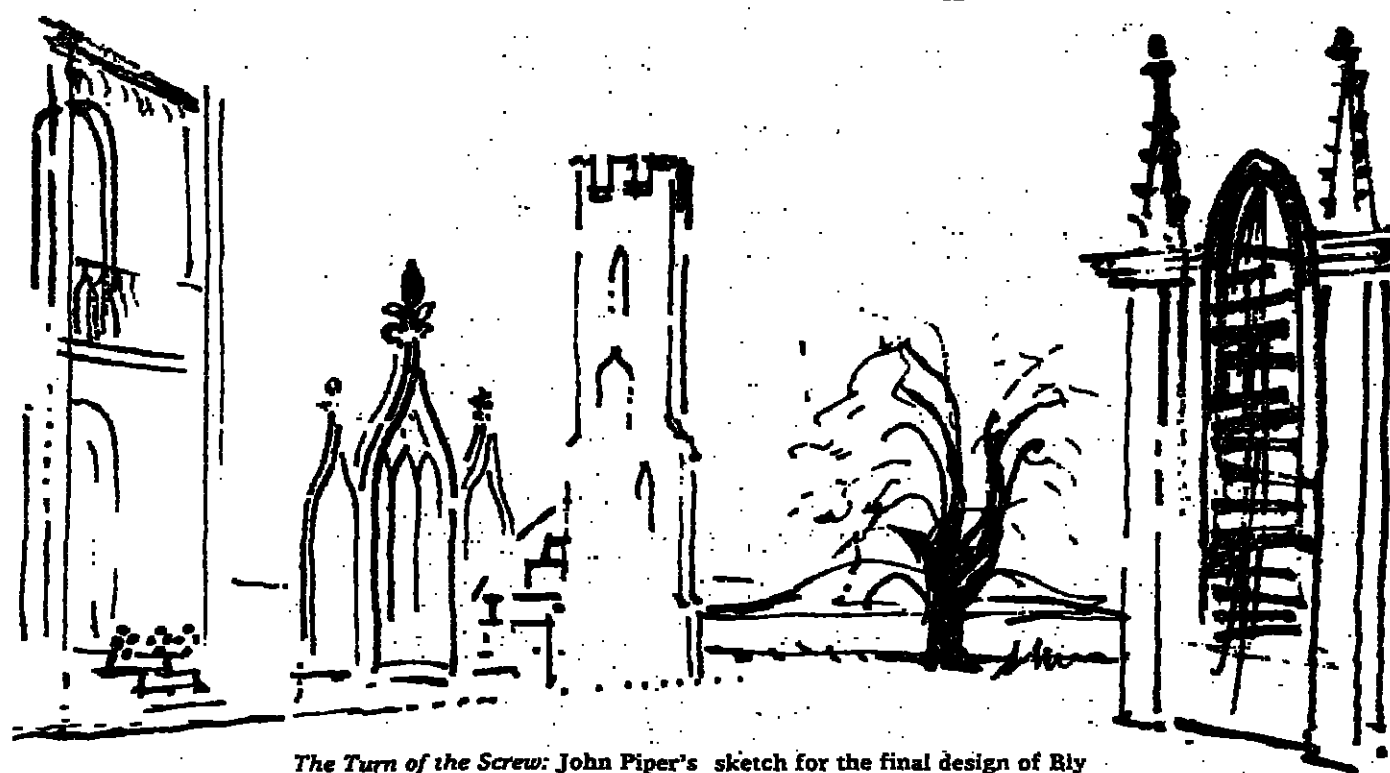
THE ARTS

Britten's inevitable relationship with the Pipers

Although they corresponded during the war, Benjamin Britten and John Piper did not collaborate until, after the production of *Peter Grimes* at Sadler's Wells in 1946, the composer began work on *The Rape of Lucretia* and asked Piper to design it.

The *Rape of Lucretia* was produced at Glyndebourne in the summer of 1947. The working relationship between composer and painter set the pattern for all future collaborations and for their friendship: a mutual trust and respect, an ability to learn from each other and to accommodate the demands of their respective trades. John, with his passion for the ballet, was inclined to think of design in terms of the great and splendid Dischibeli. But for opera the stage must be furnished. Britten was very practical: "What is going to happen here, in the first act, when this character has to move from left to right? I can't write the music until I can visualize the action! Although he had a proper sense of realism and the box set, this need to be specific did lead to prolonged discussion. For example, in *The Turn of the Screw* the governess arrives in a coach, and Ben wanted the coach to be seen — not from a desire for inappropriate realism, but because he was afraid that the music alone would get it across to an audience unfamiliar with the musical idiom and with the understated abstraction of the stage picture. But what was precisely the quality that John did not absorb a coach. So there had to be persuasion and adjustment. The producer, Basil Coleman, had the brilliant idea of using the motions of someone sitting in a coach, and the merest whisper of a wheel and a door panel in the painted gauze settled the issue to everyone's satisfaction.

It was the rule at Glyndebourne that productions were made there, with the singers living in the house or in the neighbourhood for several weeks before the opening night. This is an ideal way to produce properly rehearsed whole works with no waiting about because someone has gone to Manchester or Berlin. In spite of the inevitable contretemps when so many strong personalities are gathered together for so long, rehearsals for *The Rape of Lucretia* was a happy time. The happiness was shattered when, after the dress rehearsal, John Christie called a meeting of producers (Eric Crozier, John Christie, Ronald Duncan), designer, cast and composer and told them that the whole work was absurd and inadequate, and the music incomprehensible. He pointed out the arches of the scene hadn't even got reveals. It was this insensitive treatment, coming together with the obvious advantages of the working



The Turn of the Screw: John Piper's sketch for the final design of Rly

conditions, that determined Britten, Peter Pears and Eric Crozier to form a group that would be responsible for its own productions; it would be based at Aldeburgh, where productions would be made, rehearsed and when possible performed, independently of other organizations. So the English Opera Group came into being. John was asked to be the artistic adviser.

The *Rape of Lucretia* was the beginning of a life-long involvement and friendship for both families. It was at Glyndebourne that John's wife Myfanwy first learnt to listen to Ben's music, to notice what happened to words that were sung, and to understand, through many talks with him, the difficulties that beset composers and writers when their work comes together — she did not realize that this was a problem. After *Lucretia*, John designed all Ben's operas (for their first production) except the three Church Parables. Of them all perhaps he enjoyed most *The Turn of the Screw*, a *Midsummer Night's Dream* and *Death in Venice*. This work meant many visits to Aldeburgh, sometimes very short, when the Pipers stayed with Ben and Myfanwy, and sometimes, when a production was in progress, for much longer, when they took a house. John became devoted to Ben and learnt an enormous amount about music, but about life, about being an artist, about integrity, about tolerance and intolerance too. They were both humble

before other people's skills, and both took enormous trouble when anyone wanted help with his own work. They respected each other's habits, which were very different. Because he was so vulnerable, Britten built up a close circle of associates as protection against the world and for his privacy. Wounds inflicted did not easily heal. It was easy to offend him and people who broke his own code of behaviour were not easily forgiven. He was a little formal in his way of living, courteous in an old-fashioned way, almost over-polite. He found it difficult to relax, except when he played games for exercise — a thing that John never did (except table tennis) — or went for long walks along the marshes, or drove through the Suffolk lanes looking at old churches, which he loved. This common passion with John was an endless source of pleasure. Between bouts of hard work, difficult negotiations or serious personal problems, Britten would talk on these church-crawling expeditions, about the difficulties and complexities of his life and receive sympathetic and impartial advice; at the same time, he would come to appreciate some church or place that he had seen before but with different eyes, or they would both enjoy the excitement of seeing somewhere completely new to them. There was never any rivalry, even coolness, between them.

The need for support was certainly very real. It was remarkable how beastly people could be about his way of life, about his having been a

conscientious objector (let alone going to the States for two years) and about his work. The commissioning of *Clorissa* by Covent Garden for performance during the Coronation celebrations caused a lot of backstage gossip, extremely painful to the composer and nearly disastrous for the general administrator.

John enjoyed and admired *Gloriana* and thinks that it is a much underrated work. But it was by far the most time-consuming of any work for the stage he had done. Work on the costumes alone took months. In fact, it was the last time that he undertook to design costumes as well as sets, except for *The Turn of the Screw*.

The *Turn of the Screw* was the first opera in which both John and Myfanwy were involved. When Ben began to think of it as a subject, he remembered that Myfanwy had suggested it as a possible film (when Ben was being pressed unsuccessfully to do one), so he asked if she would think about how it might be treated, with the idea that someone more professional, like William Plomer, might be called in to write the script. But ideas flowed and they decided to do without anyone else. She had some misgivings because of her lack of musical knowledge, but what she had learnt from listening to so many rehearsals of so many works helped to give her confidence. Words mattered, and Ben's words were meant to be heard. As she wrote in *The Operas of Benjamin Britten* she knew that "nothing can be

slurred over in a fine flourish of sound, nothing shrugged off as 'operatic licence'." She had developed an instinctive feeling for what words might sound like when he set them. It was the experience of his music as much as her own sensitivity that made it possible for her to have a rapport with his work. It was typical of him that, once he had decided to ask her to do the whole work he accepted her as a professional. His own theatrical experience and expertise were there to help and to enrich, not to correct or lay down the law. Much of their discussion was done by letter or by long telephone conversations, but sometimes she would go briefly to Aldeburgh. These visits would have been more frequent had she not been needed at home with her children. It was not until much later that she realized how frustrating her lack of immediate availability had been and with what ungrudging patience (to her at least) Ben had put up with it.

It was 15 years before Myfanwy worked again with Ben, although they had frequently seemed to be in contact for a short opera for New York television which came to nothing. One of the stories discussed was Henry James's *Portrait of a Lady*, which was published by Hutchinson in 1925 and which, in the book Alan Blyth talks to a number of people who were associated with the composer. Later this month, before the new Glyndebourne production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, John Piper will be talking to John Higgins about the creation of Britten's opera.

Alan Blyth

□ The above extract is taken from *Remembering Britten*, which is published by Hutchinson at £7.95 and will be in the book Alan Blyth talks to a number of people who were associated with the composer. Later this month, before the new Glyndebourne production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, John Piper will be talking to John Higgins about the creation of Britten's opera.

Arts agenda

Feline frenzy grips the United States



The new musical hit *Cats* will be crossing the Atlantic shortly: the only difficulty faced by the producer, Cameron Mackintosh, in arranging a New York production is in deciding which offer to accept. He says the interest in the show from the USA is phenomenal. "We have had everything from film companies and record companies to rich widows offering us cheques of \$3m. They have gone bananas."

There is a certain irony because, when there were difficulties in raising money to mount the London production, options were offered to a variety of American companies. They all turned up down right. Macintosh says. He and the composer, Andrew Lloyd Webber, go to New York in about a week's time to look at the different options and to find a suitable theatre or "space" to stage the show, which Trevor Nunn will again direct.

In the meantime booking for the London production, which is almost sold out for the first three months, has just been extended for another six months. People who cannot reach the box office by telephone should be patient: new telephone lines are being installed to cope with the demand for tickets.

■ The KIDS gala at Her Majesty's Theatre on June 14 has lost its star performer: the organisers have been told by Moscow that the Bolshoi's leading ballerina, Maya Plisetskaya will not now be able to appear. Apologies were offered, but no explanations. However, the charity has now lined up Giuseppe di Stefano, who will sing a series of Neapolitan songs and also an aria from *La fanciulla del west*. Other performers taking part include Ruggiero Raimondi, Peter Schaufuss, Elisabeth Terabust, Berice Reading and Katia Ricciardi.

■ Cambridge City Council has just announced a big farewell to D'Oyly Carte Opera Company, to mark their last appearance in Cambridge before closing down. The only hitch is that D'Oyly Carte certainly do not regret it as a financial disaster. The company may be in danger of shutting down next February, but it is "hoping like mad" that it will be able to stay in business and is now making a last-minute appeal to the possibility of an American tour next spring. So it feels a "farewell" party will be a little premature.

■ After seven years in which amateur drama dominated the stage a north London theatre returns to professional productions this month with two

Concerts in London

Emotion exquisitely expressed

RPO/Dorati

Festival Hall/Radio 3

Neglect among the output of composers as a result of Schubert is inevitable. It seems nevertheless extraordinary that, as formerly in the instance of Haydn, his dozen or so operas have received scant attention, both during his lifetime and since.

In the case of *Alfonso und Estrella*, written in 1821 and 1822 to the libretto of Schubert's close friend, the amateur poet Franz von Schiller, it was left to Liszt to champion the work, giving a truncated first performance in Weimar as late as 1854; and until 1952, when Braikopf included it in his collected edition of Schubert's music, you could not even buy a copy. Posterity has since been no kinder, until on Tuesday a rare singer, Elisabeth Söderström, showed her appetite for

such rare music in the RPO's enterprise Schubert-evening. At the time of the opera's inception, Schubert was pouring some of his most successful songs, predominantly settings of Goethe. Such exquisitely expressed emotions, on the evidence of the three arias we heard, are still as fresh and split over into the operatic genre. After the violent, Beethoven-like contrasts of mood in the colourfully orchestrated overture, its staid discords relieved especially by the RPO brass and woodwind, Miss Söderström's opulent voice, with its consistently pure tone, transcended any difficulties of coming in, as it were, cold, making even the fact that her first aria, "Es schneückt die weiten Säte", was necessarily deprived of its choral interjections seem unimportant.

In the second aria, "Könnt ich ewig hier verweilen", the pliancy of the accompaniment, with its repeated chords, was

obvious. Yet here, with a respite and longing reminiscent of the innocent passion of the *Die Schöne Müllerin*, the effect was to make one yearn to see and hear the rest of the opera. Afterwards we heard Antal Dorati's energetic performance of the C major Symphony, reminding us that, more than in an accompaniment, string figures, particularly Schubert's, have improved from hitherto, one forgave the absence of structural importance repeats readily. There was enough light, too, to tempt one to forget the in like sentiment which intruded upon some of the incidental music for *Rosamunde*, heard at the outset.

Stephen Pettitt

Haefliger/Vignoles

Wigmore Hall

Even for those of us who dote on Mussorgsky's *Die Winterreise* I suppose, the greatest, and about the grimmest of song cycles. Tuesday night's performance by the Swiss tenor Ernst Haefliger, a notable contribution to the Wigmore Summer Nights, possessed, however, some unusual features. These arose from his accompanist, Roger Vignoles, using a fortissimo many.

This instrument dated from about 1830, had an entirely wooden frame (without even an iron bracing strut) and was by Carl Schmidt, a Viennese maker whose piano, Schubert is known to have played. The effect of its tone, which is

smaller and clearer than that of a modern grand, was to cast Mr Vignoles, a sensitive accompanist, into a supportive role.

Of course, Mr Haefliger's singing matched this and might be termed. The tone of his voice is dry, light, almost reedy sometimes, and he used far less rubato than most interpreters of this cycle. He was rather tascato delivery of some of the songs, at faster tempos than usual, accorded with all this, and the result was less personal, and more subjective, than readings, though not necessarily less expressive.

In fact, the restraint allowed the music, up to a point, to speak for itself, thus showing us a different perspective of those interpretations which rather too insistently show us how beautiful each phrase is.

This was, indeed, a performance of substance and overall structure, and if the desperate, lovelessly Schubert's, imagination was viewed from something of a distance, the verses were often savoured as poetry, their ideas enacted as experience. And yet one returns to that "authentic" instrument the fortepiano. Mr Haefliger's even emphasis on every syllable of Der Leiermann might well be the faster movements, although the Covent Garden Orchestra played with their usual air of men who know what is a dream, whether or not they think it. The opening Toccata is danced

Max Harrison

Television

Landseer

BBC 1

Landseer has always been a Victorian in my mind with his Victorian popularity, with all that means in terms of heavily framed copies among the plush professions of late nineteenth-century decor. In fact I now learn he was the child of the Romantic Movement, his precious talents taught by Haydon, his early admission to the Royal Academy drawing him towards the society world and its demands.

His heyday was in fact in the 1830s, the decade Victoria came to the throne. Round about then, Branwell Brontë was also showing off the same trick of writing with both hands at once. He came to an unhappy

end. Too was their instability of medical or social origins?

This beautiful documentary eschewed all such analysis and attempted explanation. Instead Leslie Megaw, with a sure hand, took on his subject full tilt on its own terms. Paintings on the television screen are already several ways false to the original. Right to exploit that falsity, by telling Landseer's life and times in a sequence of tableaux vivantes, the house party entertainments of a Victorian circle. Such an exercise, though seemingly simple — needed the combined skill, taste and discretion of designers, actors, readers and director to realise it without awkwardness. It got them. In fact it is a tribute to Megaw's control that studio poses, open-air filming to camera set pieces and the huge abundance of paintings, not to mention the

by two couples only: sharp, witty entries demanding much style, skill and finesse, which they get from Nicola Kratak and Reader, Sherrilyn Kennedy and Roland Price.

The same dancers, with David Ashmore as soloist and six other couples, pick their way happily through the involved patterns of the final Tarantella, weaving bright and beautiful home comfort, but all the same it is easy to understand his running after the gypsy vamp so seductively and voluptuously played by Margaret Barber.

All ends happily, of course, with one of Ashton's most loving dances, but here the heroine keeps an eye thereafter on her friends who are apt to tease her wayward lover so unmercifully, especially when they are a party group as on this occasion.

Joan Bakewell

very old-fashioned today, so Peter Rice has invented simple, serviceable, striped backcloths to go with his colourful costumes.

Tait is better suited to the good young girl in *The Two Pigeons*, whom she gives a nice girl-next-door quality. Carl Myers makes the painter here the sort of cheerful young man who would appreciate home comfort, but all the same it is easy to understand his running after the gypsy vamp so seductively and voluptuously played by Margaret Barber.

All ends happily, of course, with one of Ashton's most loving dances, but here the heroine keeps an eye thereafter on her friends who are apt to tease her wayward lover so unmercifully, especially when they are a party group as on this occasion.

John Percival

London debuts

Shedding light on the densest texture

The German guitarist Michael Tröster chose as his starting point Bach's Prelude, Fugue and Allegro, BWV998. If he seemed intent here on emphasizing the guitar's capability of producing more vibrant colours than the lute, for which the work was originally intended, he did the composer no injustice with his clean, precise playing, shedding light over even the most dense contrapuntal textures. Such an ability proved useful in Mauro Giuliani's tricky-sounding *Gran Sonata Eryon*, about which, as about anything else, the programme told us little. This composer, ignored by The New Grove, was an early nineteenth-century guitar virtuoso who seems to have performed the same magnificent service for the repertoire of his instrument as did his contemporaries Spohr for the violin and Hummel for the piano.

We returned to more familiar territory with Britten's *Nocturnal*, op 70, held by guitarists as well as by some less partisan to be a masterpiece. Considering the same magnificent service for the repertoire of his instrument as did his contemporaries Spohr for the violin and Hummel for the piano.

song on which it is based, Dowland's "Come Heavy Sleep". In spite of rhythmic liberties, more than those suggested by the score, Tröster translated the notes into a compelling experience, responding to the work's subtlety of challenges, both technical and musical, with an endearing devotion to his cause.

For the second half of his programme, Tröster returned to the safety of his instrument's homeland, a mite unwisely in the case of Torroba's *Sonatina in A*, which proved to be a dull sequence of Hispanic clichés. Well played nevertheless, it pointed all the more clearly to the greater subtleties in the music of Albeniz, from whose *Suite española*, originally written for piano, the following two pieces were culled. Here Tröster revitalized his audience with his idiomatic playing, preparing us for the Villa-Lobos Preludes and Etudes, a pair of each, with which he finished. Whether in the calm serenity of the fifth Prelude or in the resplendent fireworks of the seventh Etude, Tröster played with relaxed confidence and commanding musicianship, giv-

ing promise of a flourishing career even considering the harsh competitiveness of his chosen field.

The Canadian soprano Kristina Johnston gave the impression of being suited more to the opera house than the confines of the small recital room. Her voice's hard quality, at which I realize many would not raise an eyebrow, disquieted me in the opening groups of songs by Schubert and Brahms, particularly Schubert's idyllic "An die Musik", although her singing seemed entirely appropriate to the urgent forcefulness of Brahms's "Heimkehr". Later, in Fauré's *La Bonne Chanson*, the effect of the hard sounds seemed to diminish, helped by the fact that Johnston's responses to Verlaine's passionately sentimental verse, complemented admirably by Michael Dussek's sensitive, finely judged piano accompaniment. The concluding English group was entirely pleasurable, the serenity of a mood in Armstrong Gibbs's and Vaughan Williams's songs well suited to Miss Johnston's dramatic senses.

Stephen Pettitt

Prince

Lyceum

Taking his cue from such exotic black performers of recent years as Jimi Hendrix, Sylvester and the *Motown* artist Rick James, Prince is having a go at bringing rhythm and blues to the rock audience, on that audience's own terms. Whereas Hendrix mixed the blues with psychedelia and Sylvester took the designer jeans crowd to the disco, Prince is pursuing the James formula of fusing funk with punk.

His gimmick is a Kohl-eyed pansexuality made explicit in his lyrics and his stage gestures, the latter a full-frontal development of the guitar manipulations which once drove the Daughters of the American Revolution into a battle against Hendrix. The combination of invigorating dance music and elegant pornography would seem to be perfectly calculated for the current crop of exiles in New York and London, and Prince's British debut on Tuesday night was received with delight by an elite crowd.

A 20-year-old multi-instrumentalist from Minneapolis, Prince clearly has a firm grasp of contemporary modes. The funk was hard and infectious, coming mostly from the two guitarists and the bassist, whose collective movements bordered on a great deal of choreographic work behind the scenes; the punk element was

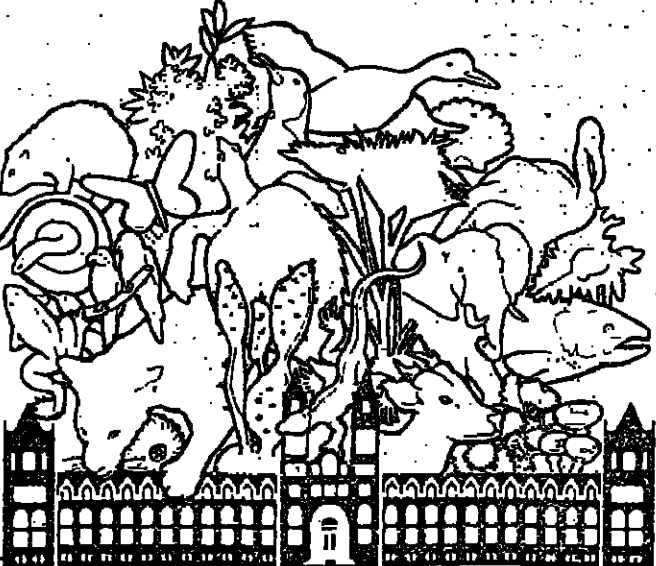
injected by the drummer's rock-based patterns, and by the two keyboard players, whose warped synthesizer and organ figures were often reminiscent of Devo and the heritage of the late Sixties.

An interesting mix, then, performed with flair and vigour, but what made the evening worthwhile was its quotient of undiluted soul songs, which showed Prince to have a somewhere between Michael Jackson and the young Smokey Robinson. It is a delicate instrument, which can sound magnificent when buoyed up by gospel harmonies, and it seemed most comfortable on a relatively conventional ballad which dipped to an exquisitely muted coda and on "I Wanna Be Your Lover", his big tune, an irresistibly sparkling tune of the type Maurice White has written for the Emotions. His own guitar work was a real surprise, veering from clipped funk to flowing blues to a lurid pastiche of heavy-metal antics which he seemed to take rather too seriously for his own good. In the end, it would much prefer him to dispense with the cheap sex; he might care to remember that much of the aristocracy of the blues resided in the fact that the blues man is too talented to settle for the obviousness of his present tactics. But then, where would Hendrix have been without that tin of petrol?

Richard Williams

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'Carl Chase - SINGING GLOUSLY' - HANK WILLIAMS 'The Show He Never Gave' - 'ROOT-TOOTIN FOOT-STOMPIN' - 'BRILLIANT' - CRITERION THEATRE

Should the terrorists be given air time?

Sir Ian Trethowan, BBC Director
General, replies to criticism
of Northern Ireland coverage

*Cleopatra: Thou shalt be
whipped with wire, and strew'd
in brine, smarting in lacerating
pickles.*
Messenger: Gracious Madam,
I that do bring the news
made not the match.

British broadcasters sometimes feel that Shakespeare could have been foreshadowing their own dialogue with some modern ruler. The BBC's Northern Ireland coverage is rarely made welcome and this at least partly explains the public hostility towards the reporting of Northern Ireland by all the news media, but particularly by the broadcasters. Many viewers and listeners in Britain are outraged, and frustrated, by what is happening in the province, and inactively they resent those who bombard them in their own homes with hideous pictures of violence, and deeply depressing accounts of bigotry.

But broadcasters have to recognize that the tendency to blame the messenger for the message is only part of the problem of reconciling the public to their coverage of Northern Ireland. At the heart of the argument is a deceptively simple question—how much freedom of access to our open channels of communication should be allowed to those who wish to destroy freedom, not least of communication. It is a question which has to be asked in relation to any group pledged to the overthrow of our democracy, particularly those who resort to violence.

No organization basing itself on free speech, least of all the BBC, can be neutral towards threats to freedom. The BBC, like ITV and the press, is part of a society based on representative government and the rule of law, and it recognizes very

clearly that you cannot have a free press and broadcasting in a slave state.

But here is the first dilemma: the denial of access to the air for IRA spokesmen is easy to justify, just as many would justify denying it to communists and fascists, but each time, however imperceptibly, we slide towards the extremists' own goal of suppressing freedom.

In the case of the IRA there is, of course, a further dimension. Not only are they seeking to undermine our society, but they are pursuing their ends by violence. They are seeking, either to frighten, or to exasperate, the British people into pulling out of Northern Ireland. To achieve that end, they need their frightfulness to be widely publicized, above all on the medium where it can have the biggest impact, namely television.

So here is the second dilemma: journalists rightly argue that they have a duty to report what is happening in Northern Ireland, however unpleasant, but in so doing they are in fact giving the men of violence the very exposure they seek.

This has led to suggestions that the cameras should be "pulled out" of Northern Ireland. But there was no television at Easter, 1916, nor in the years of the "Troubles" which followed, let alone in all

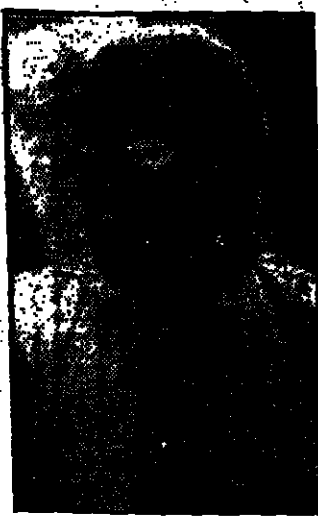
the earlier periods of violence in Irish history.

If today there were no television cameras present, would the men of violence really put away their guns and petrol bombs? And what of the press? There was no television in the years when Carson was in full spate, but the newspapers very effectively disseminated his message.

To introduce artificial legal curbs on the free reporting of Northern Ireland (or any other issue) would be to push our society down an immensely dangerous slope. The question is not whether Northern Ireland should be reported, but how. Broadcasters and the press would cease to be credible if they began to suppress facts, however unpleasant they may be.

The Prime Minister recently spelled out the two halves of the problem. She reiterated her own concern that terrorism needs publicity: "Newspaper and television coverage can provoke the very reaction the terrorists seek. It can give the convicted criminals on hunger strike the myth of martyrdom they crave." But she prefaced her warning on television and press with this important reservation: "They must of course report the facts. Nothing would be more damaging than misinformation and lack of balance."

There is no easy, slide rule



The unpleasant face of violence: should the public see it?

answer to the question, how much do you show on television of a given event in Northern Ireland? It lies somewhere between two extreme propositions.

One argument goes: we are at war with the IRA, they need the publicity of television, therefore it is television's duty to deny it to them. The counter argument runs: we are a parliamentary democracy, the public needs to be fully informed on anything so crucial as Northern Ireland, and journalists must convey that information by all available means, including television pictures, however distasteful they may be.

All these factors are in the minds of the reporters, cameramen and editors who each day,

several times a day, have to make the decisions about coverage, often at short notice. It would be absurd to claim they are infallible. We occasionally make mistakes. More often, we make a decision which we believe is on balance right, but which leaves us with a heavy balance sheet of being asked the question.

There is no dishonour in either position, nor in truth is the distinction as wide as some of the more vociferous voices on either side would argue. Most politicians recognize that a reasonable amount of reporting of events in Northern Ireland is necessary, and desirable: most journalists recognize that they are not in a simple "publish and be damned" territory.

Most journalists recognize that they are trying to bring peace and order to Northern Ireland, and are often operating under great personal strain, and in circumstances of physical danger. If we have a grievance, it is perhaps to wonder whether viewers and listeners sufficiently appreciate that journalists, too, can be in danger, and that broadcasters, in particular, are acutely sensitive to the fearful responsibility which Northern Ireland lays on them. So far as the BBC is concerned, many of the reporters, cameramen and editors staff not only work but live in the province.

Criticism of the media has been particularly sharp over the coverage of the hunger strikers, above all Bobby Sands. One crucial point which many of the critics missed was the significance of the Fermanagh and South Tyrone by-election. Whatever the reasons for Sands being the only Catholic and

Republican candidate, elections were free to abstain, or spoil their papers, if they did not wish to support him. Instead, over 30,000 of them voted him into Westminster, and so transformed the situation. When last did an elected MP starve himself to death? When last did someone starve himself to death receive a procession of eminent international emissaries? The irritation of many viewers at being shown so much about Sands was entirely understandable, but however much they disliked it, the Sands affair became a major international event which had to be reported to the British public.

There is no simple solution to the problem of television's role in Northern Ireland, or in reporting terrorism generally. Each day, the decisions are being taken by a number of journalists, each conscious of all the relevant factors. They know that they owe no duty to the terrorists, but they know also that they have a duty to inform the public fairly and truthfully. They know, too, that they have a duty to report the reality of Northern Ireland, the news of peace as well as the news of violence. People in Northern Ireland have argued, not unfairly, that broadcasters could have reported, about the violence, such events as the peaceful passage of Belfast's Lord Mayor's Show.

Perhaps the best thing would be for the argument to continue, and that the dilemmas recognized by the Prime Minister herself should be faced carefully and thoughtfully both by those who have to deal with the situation in Northern Ireland, and those who have to report it. Neither can escape their respective responsibilities.

Ronald Butt

A power of good for the ratepayer

Is local government still possible—and on what terms? No less a question than this is raised by Mr. Michael Heseltine's decision to cut the block grant to local authorities which still refuse to heed the Government's cash limits, and by his hint of a ceiling on rate increases if obdurate authorities refuse to accept the Government's restraint by still higher rates.

It is a warning not only that the Government will refuse to sanction local spending that conflicts with its economic policy, but that it is even prepared to restrict the traditional right of local councils to raise their own revenue. But can local authorities be genuinely responsible and representative if they do not have effective taxing powers in some form?

In fact, we already have a system of local government which is a practical compromise, flouting the traditional connexion between the right of representative spending authorities to raise rates and the right of their constituents to call them to account for the amount they raise and how they spend it.

For something like 60 per cent of their spending, local authorities rely on the grant of money from the Exchequer—and in the process they are free in a manner that the central government never is to spend as they choose money which they are not accountable to anyone.

The essential case for providing Exchequer money for local spending is, of course, as an equalizer between poorer and richer localities, and to support essential services which should not be dependent wholly on the local community's ability to pay. On the other hand, this in itself represents a clear breach of the principle that spending, taxpayers' money ought to be in the hands of those who raise it and who are directly responsible to the taxed electorate.

For the other 40 per cent of revenue, local authorities rely on rates. This is a highly unfair form of taxation which falls on some private citizens (house owners) who may not be earners, and not on other citizens who, as earners, are in a better position to pay. More than this, rates fall particularly heavily on industry and commerce which have no votes, and at present, some local authorities who have a political quarrel with Mrs. Thatcher are deliberately keeping their spending up and creating a huge burden on industry and commerce which is driving much needed work from their areas.

This system already makes a mockery of the old maxim: no taxation without representation. With 60 per cent of local spending paid for by the Exchequer block grants, only about 16 per cent on average is provided by domestic ratepayers, with the average balance of 24 per cent being paid for by commercial and industrial ratepayers.

In fact, in some places of concentrated industry, domestic ratepayers provide no more than 10 per cent, while industry furnishes 40 per cent. A situation in which about 18 million voters pay out about 37 million voters pay between 10 and 20 per cent of local spending is hardly one which suggests that the survival of local government hinges on its ability to raise its own money.

It is clear that what voters make part in local elections, they do so primarily as a passing comment on the way in which the central government is performing at the time, and not primarily as a referendum on their local representatives. Many of whom, by the way, they do not even know. Labour as well as Conservative governments have quite properly insisted on their right not to have their policies thwarted in this way. At present the greater number of voters must Conservative and some Labour have responded to the Government's financial requirements, but

many Labour councils are frustrating them on blatantly ideological grounds.

Some are deliberately preferring to cut essential services (schools, hospitals, social services) for instance which will add to the Thatcher government's unpopularity, rather than economic inessential services such as libraries. They prefer to keep their highly paid directors and controllers of recreation, and continue to put on their shows and pantomimes, rather than buy a few more books.

It is therefore a serious question whether there is any point in continuing with the present system of local authorities and local revenue raising, must go together. There is, of course, a long tradition that they do, and it particularly appeals to Tory instincts. Conservatives naturally fear that once the local authorities had lost all option for local revenue-raising and once the central government was responsible for it all, the political power of local authorities would be surely if slowly eroded.

This could play into the hands of a centralizing Labour government. There already exists much erosion of local authority discretion, not only because of central authority lay prescriptions on the way in which they must observe and pay for, but also by means of central government circulars which are too often interpreted by local officials as having the force of command. Like laws, when they are really no more than exhortation.

With a fully centralized financial system, Conservatives naturally fear that central government would be even more tempted to issue instructions and local councillors to obey them. There is at least some degree of financial accountability at present. In the GLC election the Lambeth ratepayers of Norwood made very clear their opinion of Mr. Ted Knight and his irresponsible taxing and spending.

Yet, all this admitted, it is still questionable how far such effective political representation as exists locally is substantially dependent on the ability to raise local money. And even if the system of local revenue raising was changed from rates to, say, a local income tax, it would still leave an area of potential conflict between central and local government in present circumstances. Mr. Heseltine might still have to impose a ceiling if central economic management was being deliberately flouted.

For the Tory Party, which believes more than Labour in local responsibility, the answer could lie in removing certain large money-consuming (education, for instance) from local financing, and perhaps from the local authority's control, altogether, leaving the local authorities responsible for some other local services which they could finance totally and for which they would be accountable.

Yet we should also take seriously the possibility of a complete divorce between local authorities and local revenue-raising. A number of European countries have already done so, their governments allocating slices of tax for local purposes.

The importance of local government needs no assertion. The more responsibility is spread the better. Yet a system of local government elected in the same spirit as that in which a canal opinion is given to a pollster, and which is based on a bogus concept of local financial responsibility, hardly inspires confidence.

If we cannot have local authorities able to raise from every citizen taxes which are clearly related to particular services, and which pay for these services in their entirety, it might be better to do away with the pretence that local authorities have effective taxation powers. We shall then be free to judge them not on what they raise, but how effectively they spend what they are allocated.



Paul Vathis saw President Kennedy and former President Harold Whitlatch, a deaf boy, hears his voice for the first time Eisenhower at Camp David after the Bay of Pigs fiasco in 1961.



Joe Rosenthal's picture of the marines raising the flag at Iwo Jima, an image that became a national monument.



Joe Rosenthal's picture of the marines raising the flag at Iwo Jima, an image that became a national monument.

Dispatches from hell before breakfast

The Associated Press Ltd was founded as the Associated Press of Great Britain, and its Golden Jubilee is a landmark in the history of journalism. With Reuters, the AP helped to establish standards of objective reporting which are recognized, if not always observed, throughout the free world.

The American parent company (owned cooperatively by its many member papers in the US) was formed in 1848 and eight years later its Washington correspondent, Lawrence Gobright, defined objectivity for all good news agency men: "My business is to communicate facts. My instructions do not allow me to make any comment upon facts. My dispatches are sent to papers of all manner of politics. I therefore confine myself to what I consider legitimate news and try to be truthful and impartial."

His definition was no doubt simplistic. What are facts? What is truth? Is beauty as Keats had it or a straight report of the words of a dissembling politician? Unesco appears to think that Tass and other government-controlled news services know best, but those people in Westminster and Whitehall who secretly agree should read Pravda, Neues Deutschland and the People's Daily for a few weeks.

Gobright's approach won the confidence of President Lincoln, whose immortal Gettysburg Address might not have survived but for the AP report. Edward Everett was the main speaker at the consecration of the war cemetery, but the local AP man thoughtfully asked Lincoln for the notes of what were intended to be concluding remarks, and the rest was truly history.

The extraordinary Gobright also established a record for

Today is the 50th anniversary of the Associated Press Ltd, the British branch of one of the great news agencies whose wide coverage in words and pictures helps many major newspaper and broadcasting organizations provide a comprehensive picture of the world.

brevery and caution which were adopted by all Western news agencies. On April 14, 1865, he wired: "The President was shot in a theatre tonight and perhaps mortally wounded."

The AP was the first to apply modern news-gathering techniques to history's first modern war, the American Civil War, but was not always commended for objective reporting. When General Sher-

covered the Russo-Japanese war when Paul Cowles established a record not appreciated by news agencies or newspaper proprietors.

Expense accounts are quite unfairly of course, part of the mythology of journalism, but after all these years Cowles has never been beaten. He charged \$80,000 for the purchase of a yacht to cover naval engagements.

By 1928 the cooperative had grown to 1,228 member newspapers, and its leased wires spanned 160,000 miles. It had become the largest news-gathering organization in the world, and the then general manager, Mr. Kent Cooper, recalled what was seen to be a European cartel preventing the distribution of the AP service overseas. His answer was the Associated Press of Great Britain.

Today Associated Press Ltd serves all the British national

newspapers, and in cooperation with the Press Association more than 120 provincial. It is also an international communications centre. News and pictures from Europe, the Middle East, Africa, the Indian sub-continent and Australasia are distributed through its British-built computers to all subscribers. The AP is mainly staffed by British journalists and photographers, but its American parenthood explains its technical leadership. For instance, the transmission of pictures by wire was first achieved in 1935 and now pictures as well as news are transmitted by satellite. As a consequence, the first picture of the attempted assassination of President Reagan, was received at The Times offices 25 minutes after the first shot was fired.

Louis Heren

Ripperback ban—well, that's what they say

W. H. Smith, Britain's biggest news-agents, are refusing to stock the three instant paperbacks about the Yorkshire Ripper. The chairman, Peter Bennett, says there is nothing hasty about the decision which has been in effect for a week but only just came to him. He says several of his staff wrote to him during Peter Sutcliffe's trial, alerting him to the possibility of a post-trial "quickie".

Bennett argues: "At this stage of the game, anything that comes out of the Ripper case is not necessarily a considered document. There has already been a fair amount of exploitation. It is a matter of us not exploiting a ghastly situation further, not causing further emotional upset to the victims."

Bennett also claims there are good commercial reasons for the decision. "Ripperbacks", as they are known in the trade, could drive away valuable high street custom. "Past practice has shown that these things which come out after a big case are unsaleable unless they are pretty salacious, and that is not in line with our trading."

Smith's decision has upset the publishers involved. Futura, who printed a quarter of a million copies of David Yallop's *Devil, Us From Evil* within 24 hours of the end of the trial, said: "Our book is not a piece of sensationalism; it has been two years in researching and writing." At Grande, which has published 70,000 volumes of Roger Cross's *The Yorkshire Ripper*, a spokesman said: "We are shocked. Our book only documents what actually happened."

THE TIMES DIARY

I rather missed Victor Lomax in the Playbox enclosure at Epsom yesterday. (I also missed the winner: I had £10 on *Gilt of Gold*, having also been invited to the Gold from Peru exhibition at Olympia. It was not the first time this method of choosing a winner had let me down. One notable occasion in 1968, with a nag at Cheltenham called *Stratford Dragon*. She was made for me: Shakespeare and I share a birthday, April 23, which also happens to be St. George's day. I was ready for a staying race but 229 of my party then as now but a small fortune at the time. Unfortunately, although she snorted her way down to the start, she ran like Falstaff.)

Two curious points remain. First, apparently, Smith will continue to sell these books to the trade through its huge, wholesale business. And, second, at the Smiths branch nearest this office yesterday, in Holborn, the three *Ripperbacks* were all on sale. Indeed, there were 200 copies of David Yallop's book in the shop.

Amnesty's new man

Amnesty (UK) has offered the post of director to John Toroc, the journalist and broadcaster. Toroc, 42, will meet the organization's steering committee this weekend to iron out the details of the job, and to clarify exactly where his lines of responsibility lie.

Lomax's replacement as chairman, Marvin Huston, was not there yesterday, but the new managing director, the austere Frank di Prima, was. He seemed the only man unswayed by the presence of *Myth of Bird* but even he shuddered when Alan Mullery, the football manager, walked in wearing a polka dot suit. Mullery apart, the Playbox enclosure is scarcely less exclusive than the royal box these days: dozens of emulous punters without passes were turned away. One man who didn't appear to have a pass but should have been allowed in was William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary. I caught him looking longingly at our tent which, no doubt, the great man felt was an appropriate hang-out for a "wet".

He is taking his time before accepting because the previous director, Cosmas Desmond, was forced to leave after a staff revolt. Desmond, a former prisoner of conscience, left the Covent Garden offices (just below those of *Strife-Torn Time Out*) about six weeks ago, with a year's pay in his pocket in lieu of notice.

Amnesty are believed to want someone who can give them in the American phrase, "a higher profile". It is a large organization and has a long history, yet many members appear to resent the fact that much smaller bodies, such as the National Council for Civil Liberties and Shelter, are the ones who are asked on television to show and *Question Time*. Toroc has plenty of experience

in broadcasting (he fronted the first *Weekend World* with Peter Jay). The son of an East End trade union official, Toroc contested Kingston on Thames (unsuccessfully) for Labour at the last election, which raised a few eyebrows among Amnesty's strictly non-political friends. However, I understand he has assured them that he will not take on any hopeless projects like that if he takes the job.

Amnesty (UK) should not be confused with Amnesty International, the headquarters of the world-wide organization, which also in London. Amnesty (UK) takes up prisoners of conscience but is precluded from concerning itself with British prisoners.

By appointment

The Queen Mother would like a souvenir portrait of Lady Diana Spencer, the Clarence House, and it looks as though artist Lawrence Myroff will get the job. Apparently, an aide from Clarence House recently saw the exhibition of Myroff's work at the Art, a gallery in Chelsea, and was impressed. The commission has not yet come through but Myroff has been asked to give up his work for *Tatler* magazine, where he was to have replaced Mark Boxer drawing personalities. This was felt to be not entirely appropriate for a painter of royal portraits.

Myroff's drawings and paintings are marvellous (and I hope that by writing this I am not spoiling his chances). He draws on celluloid, giving his surfaces an ivory quality. Many now on show are of famous people: Rebecca Wain, Sir John Gielgud, Dr. Roy Stroud, Hugh Casson, Samuel Beckett. Best of all is his picture of dress designer Zandra Rhodes—wisps of vermilion hair, backed with gold leaf. The paint-

ings fetch anything from £300 to £550. Myroff (the name is one of the 11 oldest in England, dating from 1663), comes from a family of painters. His father is a landscape artist, his mother—just back from Malta—is a botanical water colourist, his brother paints and his sister has just started at St Martin's School of Art.

Not all his works now on exhibition have been sold. But it can't be long now.

Ugly duckling

While she was beautiful, Valeria d'Obici was just another, little known Italian actress. But then she starred in a production for the film *Passion of Love*, a nineteenth century melodrama about an "appalling ugly, wilful and chronically ill" woman who steals a handsome young cavalry officer from his beautiful mistress. Miss d'Obici arrived from two nights without sleep, gaunt from two days without food, and with unwashed, matted hair. She wobbled on her feet, she scratched herself, she stank; but she got the job and now she is a star.

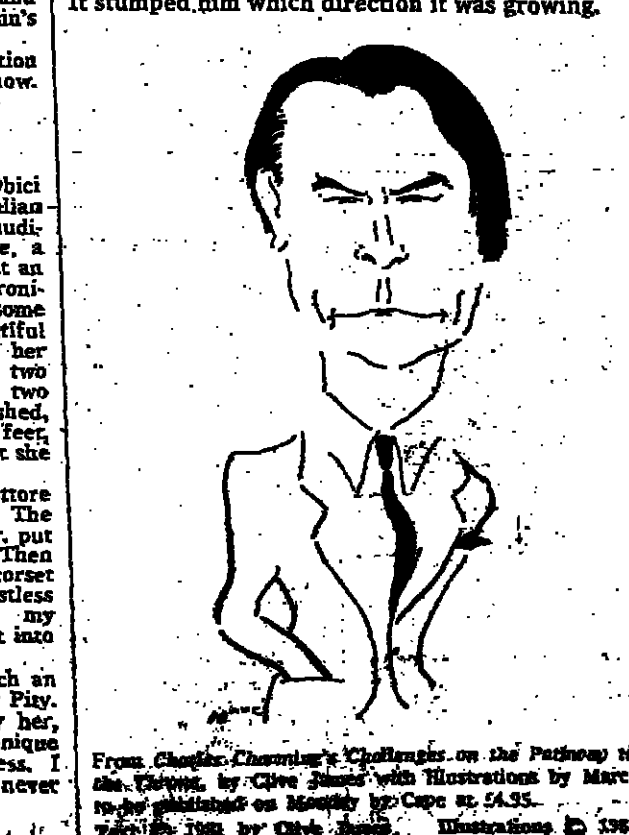
For the film, the director Ettore Scola was merciless with Valeria. The makeup men scraped back her hair, put in false teeth and a beaky nose. Then they strapped her into a special corset to make her look completely chestless with protruding bones. "When my mother saw the film, she just burst into tears," the new star admits.

How, you may wonder, does such an unattractive creature win the day? Pity. She persuades the officer to pity her, then turns that to love. Not a technique that is always assured of success. I would have thought. Certainly it never works for me.

Peter Watson

Members of the Wedding (4)

And Dr. Ounup sat with Shirley Whitley. Roy Junket was there too, but looking surly. His Centre Party so slow to get going. It stumped him which direction it was growing.



From Charles Chomley's *Chomley's on the Parkway* to the *Chomley's* by *Chomley's* with illustrations by Marc, 1981. Published by Chomley's, Cape St. 5435.



P.O. Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

THE CHALLENGE TO MR BENN

For the first time since he became leader of the Labour Party Mr Foot has responded to a challenge with unequivocal firmness and authority. He has appreciated that while Mr Benn is contesting the deputy leadership of the party, he is at the same time threatening Mr Foot's own power if not his actual position. He is striking at Mr Benn, but he is successful; he will mortally wound Mr Foot. So in the statement which he issued after the meeting of the Shadow Cabinet yesterday evening Mr Foot has wisely thrown the challenge back to Mr Benn: if he is challenging the authority of the leader let him contest the office of leader as well.

In taking this line Mr Foot is being astute as well as firm. He is not making a martyr out of Mr Benn. He is not denying his right to stand for office, but he is saying that if he is challenging the leadership then it is the leader he must fight. This is an invitation to Mr Benn to contest a more difficult battle than October than the one in which he is now engaged. He would find it considerably harder to unseat Mr Foot than Mr Healey. Mr Foot may have been up to now the weakest leader the Labour Party has had for very many years — probably since George Lansbury — but as leader he still has a distinctive

standing and command upon the loyalties of the party. For Mr Benn to fight for the leadership this year would be a hazardous exercise, but for him to decline the challenge also puts him in a difficult position.

Mr Foot's statement is a devastating criticism of Mr Benn's conduct. It goes much further than the expression of a difference of opinion over policy or tactics. He makes it clear that in his view Mr Benn's method of proceeding "would utterly disrupt any chance that the Shadow Cabinet or the Parliamentary Party could properly conduct its fight against the Tories in the House of Commons". In saying that Mr Foot is serving notice that it would be impossible for them to serve together as leader and deputy leader. He is, in other words, throwing his full personal authority as leader into the contest for the deputy leadership, if Mr Benn persists in seeking that office.

That it seems is what Mr Benn intends to do. It is easy to see why. If he were to accept Mr Foot's challenge he would be making a premature bid for the leadership in unfavourable circumstances. His chances of success this year would be remote. But he has been put in the position of asking the party to elect him as deputy to a man with whom it is now abundantly

plain that he could not work. This is to invite the party to vote for an impossible partnership. In forcing this choice upon Mr Benn, Mr Foot must at least have weakened his prospects of defeating Mr Healey.

He has also reasserted the principle of collective responsibility for the Shadow Cabinet and the rights of the Parliamentary Party. His statement contains the delphic pronouncement that there is a difference between himself and Mr Benn on the rights and duties of the Shadow Cabinet, and that he proposes at a suitable time to take that issue to the Parliamentary Party. The wisest course for him to take would be to ask the Parliamentary Party to endorse the principle of collective responsibility, and then to invite Mr Benn to accept this judgment of the majority or to withdraw. This would be different from trying to drum Mr Benn out of the Shadow Cabinet. It would not be making a martyr of him. It would also be making collective responsibility the wish of the majority rather than simply an exercise of personal discipline by the leader which, in the Labour Party, is to put it on a much surer foundation. Mr Foot has taken a strong and sensible stand. It now remains for him to follow this up with consistency of purpose.

INVESTMENT TOP PRIORITY

Yesterday's meeting of the National Economic Development Council was yet another depressing episode in the long-running saga of Conservative indecision about public investment. Many months after the Government and all sides of industry first recognized a problem of excessive cuts in public investment, the NEDC yesterday had a chance to pronounce on what should be done. Result: another working party to study the question.

The Chancellor's dismissive comments about public investment do not encourage the hope that when the working party finally reports later this year the Government will accept any positive conclusions it reaches. Meanwhile, jobs are lost and vital parts of Britain's industrial future are being undermined by lack of investment.

The case for the Government to ease its policy towards investment by public corporations is now overwhelming. It ought to be a matter of highest priority as part of a package of measures to get investment of all kinds moving. Measures are also needed to convert the promises of help for small businesses into something worth more than the shadowy and expensive loan guarantee scheme which has emerged from Whitehall. There ought also to be measures to encourage other firms to invest now rather than waiting for recovery to come.

The overall investment picture in the United Kingdom is now deeply depressing. At the end of last year industrial investment was down about 15 per cent from its level in late 1979. It is likely that it will be another 16 per cent below late 1980's level when this year ends.

The recession in the economy has played a crucial part in this, but other special factors have worsened the problem. Yesterday's NEDC meeting concentrated on the one for which the Government has the most direct responsibility. Its use of external financing limits for nationalized industries has forced them to cut back on their investment programmes. Tuesday's increase of £200m in British Telecom's borrowing limits will not go anywhere near meeting its needs.

The Government's policy towards the nationalized industries is wholly wrong. Britain, unlike most other major industrial countries, treats borrowing by state industries for investment as part of the total public borrowing requirement. It is, in effect, treated no differently from Government borrowing to meet its wage costs. This is dubious public accountancy and very bad economics.

One way for the authorities to deal with the problem would be simply to exclude nationalized industry borrowing for investment from what it counts as the Public Sector Borrowing Requirement. This would be preferable to raising borrowing limits all round. It would make it clear that the Government was prepared to see borrowing by the railways for the electrification which they badly need but was not prepared to allow ever-rising deficits to subsidize inefficiency and over-manning.

At the same time the aid measures which have finally emerged to encourage small businesses to expand have turned out to be a great disappointment. The loan guarantee scheme says that small companies can borrow to help themselves grow but imposes what are effectively punitive interest

rates on them. The Government's insistence that the scheme should be self-financing has led the authorities to impose what is effectively an insurance premium on top of normal interest rates. This is designed to cover Whitehall against the cost of schemes which fail. It is unfair to the companies which have perfectly viable projects. The self-financing requirement for the scheme should be scrapped.

There ought also to be a more generous attitude towards the scheme the Government has introduced to allow those starting their own business to offset early losses against income tax. The Inland Revenue have been determined to make the scheme abortive. They have done so, but at the cost of making it virtually useless. The conditions which have been imposed are restrictive enough to deter even the most dedicated entrepreneur. They ought to be eased.

Another area to which the Chancellor should be turning his mind is of the many companies which cannot use investment costs as an offset against profits because they are making no profits. The Confederation of British Industry has come forward with a workable proposal which would allow companies to receive loans at preferential interest rates from the banks, who would then be reimbursed by the Government. It is the industrial equivalent of the option mortgage scheme, which allows low income house buyers to receive help to buy their homes even if they pay no income tax and thus do not benefit from tax relief. At a time when industry is still showing little sign of recovery, such a scheme would help give a needed boost to investment and to the economy as a whole.

GETTING TO GRIPS WITH BRUSSELS

In his speech in The Hague last night Sir Geoffrey Howe launched an idea which runs counter to the puffed doctrine of the European Community as it is often seen to be. He proposed that when they draw up the Community's budget each year, the Commission, ministers and members of parliament should regularly take a new factor into account: how the budget would affect individual countries. The aim would be to avoid the sort of situation faced by Britain — and West Germany — in which one country had to bear an undue share of the financial burden; and also to have a redistributive effect in which funds would be channelled from the richer countries to the poorer ones. It would be achieved partly by increasing spending in areas other than agriculture — on the assumption that agricultural spending itself could be curbed — and partly by special corrective mechanisms, presumably similar to those applied to Britain as a result of last year's budget settlement.

Sir Geoffrey's idea has little chance of being accepted as such; and that is apparently recognized in London, to judge by the statements made last month by Treasury officials to the House of Lords Select Committee on the European Communities. But the speech gives a clear idea of Britain's requirements as the member countries prepare for the critical negotiations on budget expenditure and the reform of the common agricultural policy; and a solution which goes a long way towards his objectives is

going to be needed if this country's difficulties are to be resolved. Since last year's agreement the situation has not been urgent. Arrangements were made for rebates for 1980 and 1981, and for a review of the situation in 1982. But no long-term solution was reached, and that will be the aim of the Community's negotiations.

Community doctrine says that policies are made on a Community-wide basis. A certain policy will be followed because it helps farmers, or coalminers, or whatever it may be, throughout the Community; and not because it helps a particular country. It is regarded as lacking in Community spirit to tot up the gains and losses made by one country, and to expect a "fair return" in cash terms for what it puts in. But the trouble is that this approach only works when all the member countries can in fact be broadly satisfied that they are getting out nearly as much as, or more than, they contribute. And that is manifestly not the case for Britain. Because of its small farming population, and the predominance of agricultural spending in the Community budget, it finds itself getting relatively little from the Community's funds, and in practice financing much of its activities.

It is, not moreover, just a British problem. West Germany has long been the major net contributor to the Community budget and, until recently, did not complain. But now, as a result of its own economic difficulties, and of the extra burden imposed by last year's

British settlement, it too is concerned about the level of its payments to Brussels. And like Britain, it is concerned about the effects of the entry of Spain and Portugal, both of which can be expected to add to the Community's outlay. There is the making, therefore, of a tactical alliance between Britain and Germany, designed to curb agricultural spending and place limits on the amount any one country should be expected to pay.

For the moment everyone is waiting for the Commission's report on the issue, due this month; and the negotiating process is bound to be slowed down by the arrival of a new government in France, not to mention the difficulties in Italy and the Netherlands. But there should be a first discussion at the European summit at the end of this month, and from July 1, when it takes over the presidency, Britain will be well placed to push for a settlement. Meanwhile Sir Geoffrey has set the process going with his statement, made in the Netherlands, a country which is well disposed towards Britain, but which has made big gains from the way the budget has worked so far and will not be eager to see changes. Several other countries are in this position. But they have to be brought to realize that there is a fundamental injustice in the present situation — and that in the Community's interest both Britain and West Germany have to have the assurance that there is a tight and lasting limit to the amounts they are required to pay.

Tomorrow's world

From Wing Commander Trevnen James

Sir, For more than half my life I have been professionally concerned with how best to prevent war in the nuclear age. From this experience, I would like to suggest, for consideration of Mr Philip Payne (May 22), more imminent and certain threat to present and future generations than

the mercifully unlikely nuclear holocaust.

Those who possess nuclear weapons fortunately recognize their suicidal nature, but amongst the teeming populations of the Third World, between 10 and 15 million people — at least half of them children — are already dying every year from malnutrition and water-borne diseases.

Of this tragic state of affairs Mr Robert McNamara, President of the

World Bank, said: "In many ways, rampant population growth is an even more dangerous and subtle threat to the world than thermo-nuclear war, for it is intrinsically less subject to rational safeguards, and less amenable to organized control."

Yours faithfully,
TREVENEN JAMES,
Flat 7,
125, Harley Street, W1.

Records of the code-breakers

From Mr Ronald Lewin

Sir, I wish to draw the attention of your readers to a curious anomaly. For a considerable time I and others of much greater standing have been trying, in various ways, to draw the attention of the authorities to an important requirement: the need to record for archival purposes the "oral histories" of the men and women who, at Bletchley Park and elsewhere during the Second World War, were instrumental in breaking the enemy's codes and ciphers, in processing the intelligence derived from this source, and in applying that intelligence directly during operations in the field. So far, those efforts have failed.

Yet no question of security arises. There is no inherent problem in arranging for such records to be made in conditions of absolute security, or in withholding them from the public, in equally secure conditions, for whatever period may be deemed necessary — 10, 50 or 100 years. The vital need is to obtain the oral histories of those who are now individuals dying, and already certain key figures have taken to the grave a wealth of information which is lost for ever.

We shall be told, of course, that after the war sundry departmental records were made of the work carried out at Bletchley. The answer is inadequate. Any historian of experience is acutely aware that the "fine print" of reality is not often available in official reports, and that Goethe was correct in saying that "the most important things are not always to be found in the files."

During the preparation of my *Ultra Goes to War* I had many confidential talks with Bletchley people and users of *Ultra* in the field, and can assure that in the flow of privileged conversation many facts about procedures and personalities emerged which could not have been obtained from any other source.

I write to you now because during a recent visit to the United States I discovered, to my surprise and chagrin, that the National Security Agency (an organization obsessed with secrecy) has already in train a system for acquiring for its archives the oral histories of American cryptanalysts who made outstanding contributions during the Second World War. My chagrin was increased when my friends at NSA informed me that they already have their archives an extensive oral history of one of the most eminent British officers at Bletchley Park.

Furthermore, the Oral History department at the United States Naval Institute at Annapolis has for years been making the fullest possible records of the principal figures in the field of signals intelligence, many of which are available to researchers in the Naval Archives in Washington. During my current study of the breaking of the Japanese codes and ciphers, and the legal consequences of the acquisition of this source on the war in the Pacific, I have found these documents invaluable — packed with information unobtainable elsewhere.

In this country the RAF Staff College already has a far-sighted programme for recording the recollections of its senior officers under secure conditions. I cannot understand why either inertia, or parsimony, or an excessive sense of secrecy prevents our authorities from allowing a similar system to record for posterity the reminiscences of those who, at Bletchley Park and in the field, were responsible for one of the most remarkable achievements in our history.

Yours etc,
RONALD LEWIN,
Camilla House,
Forest Row,
East Horsley,
Surrey,
May 31.

Civil Service strike

From Mr E. H. Algar

Sir, You will excuse some of us who are not impressed by today's report (May 27) that civil servants "will be striking" the old, the sick and the unemployed.

I submitted my claim for mobility allowance from Stoke Mandeville Hospital on October 11, 1980. The acknowledgment from the Department of Health and Social Security was dated 15.11.80. I wrote and telephoned about my claim it would only result in further delay. Not only have I had no allowance for seven months but have not yet received my invalid disc for my car, hence any visit to the shops to collect my medicines or food leaves me vulnerable to a parking prosecution.

Yours faithfully,
J. L. C. R.,
152 Cromwell Tower,
Barbican, EC2,
May 27.

Choral economy

From Mr Charles Abdy

Sir, For the last 10 years I have been connected in a small way with the publicity for some of the musical events at St Paul's Cathedral. May I put forward a suggestion for a possible way out of the present impasse (report, May 16).

To all right-thinking people Commander Shears, the Registrar of St Paul's, is to be commended for refusing to pay the wages of six vicar chorals with money the Cathedral has not got, distressing though this is.

St Paul's is very generous to the City in its offering of music. The annual performance of the Mass (May 27) has earned the City on behalf of the Church of England

Prospects for the unemployed

From Professor Walter James

Sir, The proposals for expanding the contribution of young people to the needs of society by greater involvement in full-time community or national service have all the appeal of simple and also-stroke solutions. Full-time service reduces unemployment by delaying the entry of the young to the labour market, and secures the performance of socially useful tasks that society will not pay for at market rates.

The attraction of this approach is that it claims that national community service will restore a common sense of purpose, in which young people will put aside their "separate" aims and their competing "interests" in service of a greater ideal.

It is precisely because the adult members and institutions of our society will not practise what is here preached that far-reaching and far-sighted solutions to the problems which young people are now being called upon to solve are not being attempted. When our children ask for work we give them the serpent of unemployment, because we adults are not prepared to take such measures as eliminating our over-time, reducing our differentials, and modifying the nature of and returns on our investments. Accustomed since the war to the belief that growth will provide social and welfare services, we are reluctant, in no-growth or slow-growth situations, to do more caring ourselves for the lower levels of private affluence in order to reduce public squallor.

We need urgently and radically to reorient society to adopt new attitudes and practices to work and to the provision of community services, and to place the creation of youth opportunities programmes within this context. For such programmes, we need an integrated programme of units of education and training and employment and other activities to begin not later than the age of 14 and to continue at least to the age of 18 on a much expanded scale. Above all we need to create the equivalents of such programmes for adults as a permanent and ongoing feature of the fundamental reorganization of the economics, structures and

Criminal responsibility

From Dr Annette Lawson

Sir, Mr Playfair's letter (May 27) begins the debate which must surely now be undertaken in full. The Sutcliffe trial should lead to a critical appraisal of the law as it relates to mentally disordered offenders. It is a question of psychiatry or of psychiatrists on trial — it is a question of reconciling two completely different ways of understanding the same behaviour. While we acquire better knowledge of the mind, we must give up the idea of being to either mad or bad: no reconciliation is possible. In my view Sutcliffe is both. "Mad" is not a synonym for "diminished responsibility", but at present our legal code seems to require such an assumption.

What we need is a law which recognizes the fact that people can be both mad and bad, both cunning, clever, articulate and intelligent and deluded.

If we had such a law two further possibilities would be open to us: the first, would allow a continuation of the attempt to determine moral culpability. The jury would be asked, having accepted that a defendant is both mad and bad, the degree to which he or she could have acted otherwise than they did. To the clarification of this point evidence could be brought to bear which in Sutcliffe's case was used to show whether he was a liar rather than deluded. For example, returning to the case of the man who hid the implements of attack after arrest, confiding the hope that he might get only 10 years in a loony bin (I

imagine most lay people believe in a softer option than the reverse is sometimes true); breaking off an attack when disturbed; putting his clothes in a washing machine and so forth.

Maybe these and similar actions do suggest he could have spoken to a priest, stayed in the car with his friend, even given himself up when he realized and was distressed by the discovery he had killed non-protestants. Would he have been believed? Had he given himself up, and had he been believed no doubt he would have been called mad. Mad but not wholly bad. Fit for the loony bin?

Alternatively, the decision could also be taken to "pass-pass" the problem of responsibility. Although we are currently seeing the demand for a shift away from "therapeutic" to "tariff" codes of justice, perhaps, if juries could decide someone was both mad and mad, this could be one instance when, as Baroness Williams wrote 22 years ago, "differentiation... will be called for only in so far as it affects the kind of treatment that is likely to be helpful." (p 267, *Social Science and Social Pathology*, 1959). No doubt that is what we actually happen behind prison doors. Why not make it happen openly?

Yours sincerely,
ANNETTE LAWSON,
Department of Sociology,
Brunel University,
Uxbridge,
Middlesex,
May 28.

Church's social work

From the Director of the Church of England Children's Society

Sir, I get worried when we try to separate the Church's mission into compartments, with one for suburban and one for inner cities. We should not imply that the Church has been in the inner city for the rich and the poor man at prayer (Canon James's letter, May 27).

The clergy may have been forced to reduce the numbers in the inner city areas, but there is also a priesthood of the laity which is moving into areas of high need, not only in the inner city but also in the new towns and new housing estates where loneliness, depression and a sense of bleak isolation exists. The work done by religiously based social work agencies is supported by the suburban churches and supported by the generosity of the lay faithful. The Church of England Children's Society, often in cooperation with many other organisations both statutory and voluntary.

The help given by the suburban church is without denominational or other strings. And it is these agencies which are the living Church. By their example the Gospel is being experienced both in and out of the cities.

We thank the suburban church for its support. With it we can reach out to the depressed, the single parent, the handicapped who cannot get out, bewildered, drifting teenagers, the delinquents, the glue sniffers and the unemployed.

Yours faithfully,
DONALD BOWIE,
Church of England Children's Society,
Old Town Hall,
Kennington Road, SE11.

From the Reverend Brian J. Doonan
Sir, I am glad that Canon Eric James (May 27) has entered the lists on behalf of the Church of England's

ministry in the inner city, but his proposal for an Archbishop's Commission fills me with alarm. The Church in the inner city has great strength and vitality with a depth of Christian commitment and spirituality which is so often lacking in many numerically stronger suburban parishes. As Archbishop Runcie remarked after his pilgrimage to Walsingham last year, it is above all the Anglo-Catholic tradition of the inner city which has sustained and inspired its strength. The Church in the inner city is in good heart, and many of us, priests and lay, see in it the Church of England's only hope for survival.

The problems which Canon James lists are, of course, matters of concern, but the biggest of all is not lack of manpower, but over-large, and impractical buildings. The great Victorian churches, glorious shrines of the Christian presence, have become white elephants, a terrible burden on the backs of priests and people. If the Church is to take seriously its commitment to the inner city for the future then it will give all the support it can to help it come to terms with this one problem.

Inevitably the only answer is money — in some cases for restoration, in the majority for straightforward replacement. A commission, however sympathetic and visionary, is of little use — most of us could write its report now in our studies. What is needed is strong and imaginative policy about plant. There are plenty of priests willing to work with enthusiasm and joy in inner-city areas; they are not prepared to be the Church's curators of its Victorian architectural inheritance.

Yours faithfully,
BRIAN J. DOOLAN,
St Oswald's Clergy House,
11 St Oswald's Road,
Small Heath,
Birmingham.
May 28.

Overseas students' fees

From Professor Colin Barbury

Sir, You have had many letters about the way in which full cost university fees for overseas students are discriminating and undesirable. I don't think it is realised that they can in a curious way also discriminate against British students.

It is widely expected that the pressure from the present Government to reduce the intake of home-based students will also reduce the chances of acceptance for those with perfectly acceptable but numerically lower A level grades.

Not so for those from overseas, provided of course they can pay the fees. What is such a British student with means to do to get accepted in a university in his own country — emigrate and reapply?

This is surely another example of the arbitrary way in which government policy towards universities is operating. The sooner we get back to admitting students solely on the criterion of ability the better.

Yours faithfully,
COLIN BARBURY,
The City University,
Northampton Square, EC1.
May 28.

Resting place of Gen Sikorski

From Sir Bernard Braine, MP for Essex, South East (Conservative)

Sir, It is wholly fitting that the ashes of General Sikorski, who epitomized wartime Poland's heroic stand against the brutal subjugation of his country, should eventually be returned for burial in his native soil.

I recall, however, that after his tragic death at Gibraltar 38 years ago the Polish Government of the day resolved that his ashes should remain in the military cemetery at Newark until final victory restored Polish freedom. Thus, before our Government agrees to any request from the Communist authorities in Warsaw for the return of the remains certain questions need to be asked.

Is Poland yet a free country? Is there now completely free expression of political opinion? Is it not still under recurrent threat of Soviet military intervention?

These questions could best be answered by thousands of Polish ex-servicemen who chose to live in Britain rather than to go back after the war to a Soviet-dominated Poland. Before any decision is taken by our Government would it not be proper to ask the sizable Polish community in this country how they view the matter?

It may be argued that Poland is undergoing profound changes, is moving towards greater freedom, and the return of a Polish hero's ashes would encourage the process.

If this is really the case, would it not also be fitting for the Polish authorities to ask that the Soviet Government return the remains of the Polish officers murdered at Katyn so that they too can be given a decent burial in the land of their birth?

Is it not more likely that the time for the return of Sikorski's remains has not yet come? When it does let it symbolize all that he and his fellow countrymen struggled to achieve: the freedom and independence of Poland.

Yours truly,
BERNARD BRAINE,
House of Commons,
June 2.

Future of marriage

From Dr J. R. Allan

Sir, Dr Dominian (May 22) is probably right in suggesting that the present crisis in marriage is a symptom of an evolution towards a different type of relationship. However, the changes in marriage are themselves secondary to the more general changes in the role, status and expectations of women. On this view it is foreseeable that the more society moves towards a position of real equality between men and women the higher will go the divorce rate.

In former years there were effective constraints on divorce. These were partly legal, in the form of a strictly fault-based divorce law, and partly social, in that a serious stigma was associated with divorce and "living in sin". But for women the constraints were mostly economic — the alternative to enduring an unhappy marriage was abject poverty. Of all these deterrents only the economic survive to any significant extent.

When and if true economic equality ever becomes a reality, and that would require a revolution in present-day attitudes, it is at least debatable whether the result would be an even higher divorce rate, or perhaps more likely, a dramatic eclipse for marriage as we know it, for the institution itself and its former stability have been rooted in women's dependent status.

Yours sincerely,
J. R. ALLAN,
The Spinney,
Parkside,
Upper Hale,
Farnham,
Surrey,
May 22.

Samuel Palmer

From Dr G. P. Moss

Sir, Mr G. P. Moss (May 28) can be assured that the centenary of the death of Samuel Palmer was commemorated both in Shrotham, the inspiration of much of his work, and in Reading and Reigate, where he lived for the last 20 years of his life.

As well as exhibitions and lectures, a service of thanksgiving for his life and work was held on Sunday, May 24, the exact centenary of his death. A Palmer commemorative exhibition is also planned at the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, in the autumn.

Yours faithfully,
GERARD P. MOSS,
10 Hursleigh Drive,
Reading,
Surrey,
May 28.

Mystery tour

From Mr T. W. Howard

Sir, All rail travellers must welcome and appreciate the increased speed and comfort of Inter-City trains. But it is ironic that as the speed has got higher the station name plates have got smaller so that it is no longer possible to read them.

May we ask British Rail to revert to the old practice of showing the name of each station on a large board, as far back as possible from the track, in large clear letters, so that the name can easily be read from a train at speed?

Yours faithfully,
T. W. HOWARD,
21 Connaught Avenue,
Loughran,
Essex,
May 29.

Takes the biscuit

From Dr J. E. Barbour

Sir, There is another nice thing about the Milan underground (letter, May 23) — the station at the end of one of the lines is Gorgonzola.

Yours etc,
JULIAN E. BARBOUR,
College Farm,
South Newington,
Banbury,
Oxfordshire,
May 23.

No sign yet of
a productivity
miracle, page 19

Business News

THE TIMES June 4 1981

Keep down
the cost of
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Stock markets	
S&P 500 down 0.3	
FT 100 down 0.08	
Sterling	
\$2.0175 down 205 points	
Index 96.9 down 1.2	
Dollar	
Index 107.9 unchanged	
DM 2.3595 down 87 pps	
Gold	
\$473.50 down 53	
Money	
3 mth sterling 12 1/2	
3 mth Euro \$ 17 1/2	
6 mth Euro \$ 17 1/2	

IN BRIEF

RTZ raises stake in Tunnel

Rio Tinto-Zinc has bought more shares in Tunnel Holdings, taking its stake up to 5.9 per cent of the ordinary shares. But the company said that it did not intend to make a counter-offer to the present bid from Thos Ward.

The move was sharply criticized yesterday in Ward's latest letter to Tunnel shareholders urging them to accept. Ward said that RTZ was seeking to frustrate the offer for its own commercial reasons.

Ward also announced its results for the first four months to the end of March showing pre-tax profits up from £7.26m to £7.78m.

Beer output decline

Beer production in the United Kingdom for April this year was 3,041,372 bulk barrels, down 8.2 per cent on the 3,313,855 barrels produced in the same month last year. Production in the first four months of 1981 totalled 11,977,191 bulk barrels, a decrease of 6.9 per cent on the same period last year.

Beecham licence

Beecham has been granted a product licence for its antibiotic drug Augmentin. The Committee on the Safety of Medicines earlier recommended restricted use of the drug. Beecham shares gained 9p to 199p on the news.

Perkins strike threat

Six thousand production workers at Perkins in Peterborough voted for industrial action over their pay claim and shopstewards said there would be an all-out strike.

Savoy bid doubts

Sir Charles Forte doubts whether he can win control of the Savoy Hotel group, although he now has 57 per cent of the equity and 37 per cent of the votes. Acceptances for his £57m offer were still being counted last night and an announcement will be made today.

Kent redundancies

Fisher Controls of Rochester, Kent, intends to cut 170 of its staff—mostly office workers—redundant because of the recession. The company makes control valves.

Myson shares

Myson, the heating equipment manufacturer, suspended dealings in its shares yesterday and said it had received a possible takeover approach. Metal Box was rumoured to be the bidder.

The pound

Exchange prices for the pound are now contained in The Times Information Service on the back page.

Wall Street higher

The Dow Jones industrial average closed up at 989.71. The S&P 500 was 1.16204. TLE was 0.576266.

CURRENCY MOVEMENTS 1981

The pound

	Index	Dollar	D/mark	Sterling	Yen	Gold
Jan 1	101.4	2.3910	4.891	4.25	10.84	486
Jan 30	102.2	2.3870	5.047	4.57	11.61	489
Feb 27	98.9	2.2050	4.701	4.33	10.08	467
Mar 31	100.1	2.2445	4.721	4.311	11.141	474
Apr 30	98.9	2.1405	4.73	4.321	11.241	461
May 29	98.9	2.0700	4.821	4.291	11.51	463
June 3	96.9	2.0175	4.761	4.22	11.251	451

The dollar

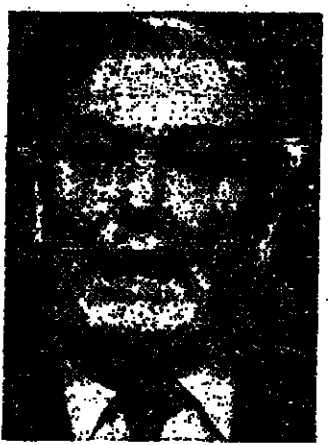
	Index	Sterling	D/mark	Yen	Gold
Jan 1	95.4	0.4152	1.9750	1.7850	4,5690
Jan 30	98.8	0.4219	2.1285	1.9305	4,8850
Feb 27	100.6	0.4541	2.1305	1.9525	5,0150
Mar 31	100.1	0.4455	2.1055	1.9215	4,9450
Apr 30	100.0	0.4672	2.2103	2.0195	5,2375
May 29	107.1	0.4231	2.3340	2.0745	5,5855
June 3	107.9	0.4957	2.3595	2.0900	5,5865

PRICE CHANGES

Rises		Falls	
Cavoods	10p to 232p	Phoenix	10p to 262p
Churchbury Est	25p to 620p	Marine News	10p to 256p
Electronics	10p to 514p	Menzies, J.	10p to 500p
Farnell Elect	10p to 514p	Tele Rentals	12p to 345p
Ferranti	10p to 500p	Standard TC	11p to 520p
Falls		Rises	
EP	6p to 370p	RTZ	7p to 526p
De La Rue	20p to 740p	Shell Trans	18p to 564p
Laurel	10p to 80p	Staffs Poles	10p to 358p
HUI C.	10p to 112p	Vicki Fountaine	6p to 451p
Husky Oil	7p to 630p		6p to 125p

State industry chiefs attack cash curbs

By Peter Hill, Industrial Editor



Sir Peter Parker: group to study finance limits.

Nationalized industry chiefs, strongly supported by the TUC and the Confederation of British Industry, yesterday launched a strong attack on the Government's restrictive policy towards the financing of investment in state industry.

Sir Geoffrey Howe, Chancellor of the Exchequer, who chaired yesterday's meeting of the National Economic Development Council where the attack was made, seized on a suggestion by Sir Peter Parker, the British Rail chairman, that the scope for flexibility and alternative financing arrangements should be studied by a tripartite working group.

Establishment of the group, which will be led significantly by the Treasury against which the state industry chairmen will have turned their anger, will effectively defuse the growing controversy for some months.

The group is not expected to complete its work before October at the earliest. By then, the large corporations will be in the final stages of their discussions with the Treasury over financing limits for next year.

More importantly, the Treasury and Civil Service Committee next Monday will begin a short investigation into the financing of state industries, and its report is expected to be completed before the parliamentary summer recess.

Its investigations are bound to cover much of the ground which the NEDC-appointed working party—which as yet has no specific terms of reference—will cover.

Sir Terence Beckett, director general of the CBI, and other senior industrialists regard the move at yesterday's meeting as significant, coming as it does in the wake of the decision earlier this week to increase the external financing limit of British Telecom by £200m.

Certainly within the sponsoring departments—especially the Department of Industry, which is responsible for the shipbuilding

foundry coke has not yet eased. Companies have also complained that despite the freeze on increases for renewed gas contracts, and some European tariff increases, substantial disparities continue.

In a report to the NEDC, chaired by Sir Geoffrey Howe, Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr Geoffrey Chandler, director general of NEDC, said that since the investigation by the energy task force earlier this year, exchange rate movements had contributed to a worsening of the situation.

Even excluding the duty, the price of heavy fuel oil in Britain was still the most expensive compared with leading European competitors, particularly France, Germany and Italy; on diesel fuel a disparity of between 5 and 15 per cent had widened since the end of March.

Mr Chandler told the council that substantial disparities had continued on gas prices and many industries feared that there would be large increases at the end of this year.

Although there had been increased flexibility in pricing for electricity to large industrial users, currency movements were ensuring that disparities remained.

A major source of concern was the price of foundry coke—30 per cent more expensive in the United Kingdom than elsewhere—and where there has been no change since the task force presented its report in March.

The task force is to be re-convened and will monitor developments. It is scheduled to submit a further report to the NEDC in November.

NEDC is also being made by NEDC in efforts to encourage more efficient use of energy and the development of an energy conservation industry.

NEDC plans to cooperate with the Department of Energy in highlighting the scope for improvement in energy use in selected sectors of industry and plans to organize a meeting of industries and manufacturers to equip them to aid conservation later this year.

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Pound slips on North Sea oil price fears

By John Whitmore

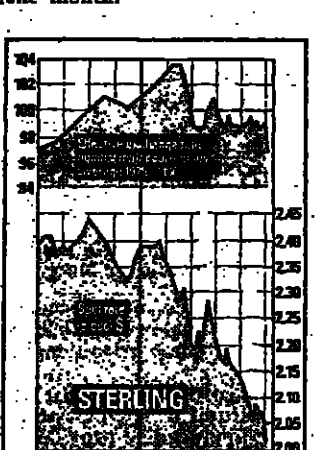
Increasing speculation that Britain will have to cut its price for North Sea oil appeared to be the main reason for the selling of sterling on foreign exchange markets yesterday. The pound fell by more than 2 cents against the dollar to \$2.0175 and also dropped against European currencies.

The fall began from the opening of business, accompanied by rumours of substantial sales from Swiss sources.

At one point the pound fell to \$2.01. Market sources said that the Bank of England seemed to be playing a fairly active role in supporting the pound from \$2.03 downwards. During the afternoon the rate was steadier.

The pound fell 61 pfennigs against the Deutsche mark to DM 7.61, and 154 centimes against the French franc to FF 111.251. Its index against a basket of currencies slipped almost 11 per cent.

Fears that the price of North Sea oil may be cut were given fresh impetus by the Mexican decision to lower the oil price by \$4 a barrel. Industrial sources doubt, however, that any decision on North Sea pricing will be taken before next month.



In addition to their concern over the oil price, international investors appear to feel that sterling is overvalued relative to currencies in the European Monetary System. They also point out that sterling interest rates are higher than those in the EMU, which they see as a disadvantage.

Whereas a one-week Euro-sterling deposit earns interest at the annual rate of 11 1/2 per cent, the rate for dollars is 18 1/2 per cent and for French francs 24 per cent.

The Government will now be watching very closely over the next few days to see if yesterday's fall heralds a longer period of more sustained pressure on the pound.

Although it has found the decline of sterling against the dollar a fairly welcome development this fall has been a blow to its "high" — it is fifth to become increasingly anxious about the inflationary consequences of any further fall.

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Talbot losses top £75m

By Edward Townsend

Talbot, the British subsidiary of the French Peugeot motor group, announced yesterday that it made a pre-tax loss of more than £75m last year after its 1979 loss of £41.4m.

Mr George Turnbull, Talbot's chairman, said the losses were primarily the result of high interest rates, the strength of the pound, a decline in the size of the United Kingdom vehicle industry "leading to a disorderly marketing environment", and problems in Iran after the war with Iraq.

Talbot decided in February to abandon its operations at Linwood near Glasgow. The loss of 4,300 jobs and closure costs of £39.2m have been included in the 1980 accounts as an extraordinary item.

Talbot's 1980 results are further confirmation of the crisis that has befallen the motor industry. They follow BL's announcement of a £535.5m overall loss for 1980 and the 41 per cent slump in profits recorded by Ford of Britain to a pre-tax loss of £226m.

The Talbot figures show the company made a net loss of £67.3m after taking into account a grant of £35m from Peugeot which covered an outstanding loan made to the British company by a consortium of banks. The loan was part of the 1976 attempt by the Government to save the ailing company, then owned by the Chrysler Corporation of America.

Mr Turnbull said 1980 had been a year of reconstruction for Talbot which would continue in 1981, and he forecast "a further substantial loss" for the year.

"However, by the beginning of 1982, the major steps will have been completed. The substantial losses from Linwood will be eliminated; a new five-year contract with Iran, currently in the process of negotiation, will be in operation; the future of truck operations at Dunstable and Luton will be in operation; the benefits from the integration of the Talbot and Peugeot financial systems will begin to be realized."

and the Talbot product range will have been significantly strengthened."

He added that, with the continued support of Peugeot, and of employees, dealers and suppliers, plus an upturn in the United Kingdom economy, the company was confident that the actions taken and planned would put Talbot on a sound and secure basis.

Clearly, Talbot is placing considerable emphasis on the renewal of its Iranian contract which could be worth more than £1,000m over the next five years. The deal, Britain's biggest single export contract with Iran, covers the supply of cars for the production in Tehran of the Peykan, a version of the old Chrysler Hunter model.

In the United Kingdom, Peugeot—which itself made group losses of £2,000m (£170m) in 1980—has plans for investing £10m at the Ryton plant near Coventry to assemble the latest drive Horizon, at present built in France.

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\$400m loan sought by Russia

The Export-Import Bank of Japan said Mr Viktor Ivanov, Soviet deputy foreign trade minister, was expected to visit Tokyo next Tuesday to seek a loan of about \$400m from the bank to finance imports of 750,000 tonnes of Japanese large-diameter steel pipes.

Oil warning from Paris

Several member countries of the 21-nation International Energy Agency (IEA), including the United States, gave warning at a meeting in Paris that the present world oil market leaves no room for complacency. The consensus of opinion was that present efforts to reduce oil consumption and dependence on imported oil have to be continued.

UK-Soviet trade

Trade between the Soviet Union and Britain ought to recover in a way that is satisfactory for both, the party newspaper Pravda said in a comment on the ninth session of the Soviet-British co-operation Committee.

Chemicals data pact

The western industrial nations and Japan—the leading producers, traders and consumers of chemicals—have agreed that test data on chemicals produced in one country will be accepted by all others.

Saudi IMF quota

Saudi Arabia's financial quota at the International Monetary Fund is to increase from 1,400 million SDRs (Special Drawing Rights) to 2,600 million. Saudi voting power in the IMF increases accordingly.

Iraq cuts pipeline fee

Iraq has lowered the pipeline fee it charges Japanese companies for oil delivered to the Mediterranean, effectively cutting the Government Selling Price of its crude.

Pressure for mergers as profits tumble

Why Co-ops will have to cooperate

From Derek Harris, Commercial Editor, Edinburgh

More evidence of the trading difficulties facing the Co-op, Britain's largest retailer, emerged as the Cooperative congress ended here yesterday.

Mr Lloyd Wilkinson, general secretary of the Cooperative Union, forecast that the number of mergers among retail societies would at least double in the next 12 months.

A number of possible mergers have been discussed behind the scenes at the congress as tough high street trading conditions have forced the retail societies to reassess their development strategy.

A more dramatic decline in the number of societies, now just below 180, could result from the proposed creation of a single society in Scotland, out of the 50 Scottish societies.

Details of the Co-op's trading performance in the past year, expected soon, are expected to show a marked decline in net profits with market share marginally down from the present 6.7 per cent. The Co-op's share of the packaged grocery market, which had been running at 17 per cent, has declined 0.8 per cent. The Co-op's retail sales in 1980 were £3,950,000, up 12.5 per cent.

But the disturbing decline in retail societies' capital expenditure, including investment in much needed projects such as supermarkets, was halted last year. In 1979 the movement's £91m investment

spending was only 6.27 per cent of all retailers' spending. Societies should have had 7 per cent or more, not only to equate with their market share but to catch up on too-slow past investment.

Last year's preliminary figures are expected to show some increase in capital spending. But the worry this year is the mounting struggle against trading problems and the high cost of loan finance.

This is why the focus is now on the efforts of the newly formed six-strong team, representing the three key organisations of the movement whose initial job will be to act as a fire brigade for troubled societies.

The team consists of the chairman and chief executives of the Co-operative Wholesale Society (CWS), commercially the movement's most powerful organisation, of CRS (the biggest retailer) and the Co-operative Union, the movement's central coordinating body.

Initially, the rescue role of the team could absorb most of its efforts as the rate of mergers increases. There were 14 mergers during 1980 and the first few months of this year.

But the team which includes one woman—Mrs Margaret Winfield, the CRS chairman—sees itself with a wider role. The quality of management, and especially of managing accounting systems, has been identified as a key area to be discussed with retail societies.

If more societies can be persuaded to improve their efficiency it will open the way for longer term loan arrangements. Means of offering such loans to societies—which are at a disadvantage with their competitors among publicly quoted multiples which have access to equity capital—are now being explored.

Resources of CWS, CRS—the movement's insurance arm—and the Co-op Bank are being harnessed for this.

The structure of CRS, the £800m sales retail operation which historically has been an ambulance service for troubled societies, is also under discussion. As mergers produce larger regionally based societies, it would be logical for parts of the widely dispersed CRS operation to be switched into some regional societies.

This could partly ease the increasing demand being made on CRS's management by Mr Alf Lee, chief executive. CRS management's latest job, likely to take several years, is to digest the merging with CRS of the former London Co-operative Society, the movement's second largest retailer.

If merger talks involving two other big societies—the Royal Arsenal and South Suburban, aimed at creating a South-east regional society—fail to produce an agreement, many in the movement believe that one or both of these loss-making societies will have to turn to CRS for help.

Man-made fibre policy attacked

By Our Industrial Staff

The Government was attacked yesterday for not taking immediate action to halt the decline of Britain's man-made fibre industry.

Mr John Stuart, chairman of the British Man-made Fibres Federation, said the industry's distress had been caused by a number of factors outside its control, the effects of which could have been ameliorated by Government action.

Making his farewell address as chairman of the federation, Mr Stuart accused the Government of taking what action it had to ease the problems of the industry as being too little and too late.

Highlighting energy costs, Mr Stuart commented that the Government showed scant regard to the interests of the economy as a whole or to the reality of energy production costs.

"The policy is enforced through the monopoly position of the public utilities... which to many observers in our competitor countries is welcome but quite inexplicable," Mr Stuart said.

This and other fiscal policies had resulted in a 25 per cent fall in man-made fibre production in the past year and a reduction in employment levels

Heath urges sweeping reform of world aid

From Frank Vogl, Lausanne, June 3

Urgent action to strengthen development assistance, including far-reaching reforms of international financial institutions, were called for today by Mr Edward Heath, the former British Prime Minister, and Dr Johannes Witteveen, former managing director of the International Monetary Fund.

Mr Heath said that the United States and Britain were becoming increasingly isolated in their efforts to block moves to strengthen official lending to developing nations. He suggested that evidence of this was the unprecedented rejection at the recent IMF conference in Gabon of Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, as chairman of the IMF's ministerial committee.

The payments deficits of developing nations, which this year may exceed \$100,000m (£48,000m) were at the heart of discussions today at the first session of the International Monetary Conference.

Mr Heath said the IMF should expand its lending by borrowing large sums, using its gold reserves as collateral.

Dr Witteveen called for an additional \$25,000m of lending by the World Bank for energy projects in developing countries. He sought changes in the



Dr Witteveen: World Bank should borrow far more.

Bank's articles of agreement that would enable it to borrow far greater sums in the capital markets.

Mr Heath asserted that the rich Arab oil exporting nations must be induced to provide far more cash for developing nations. This demanded that they be given a far bigger shareholding in the IMF and that the stakes of the industrial nations be reduced.

He said debt defaults by developing nations were an increasing probability and could cause enormous strains for the banking system.

Agreement on pay for engineers

By Baron Phillips

A national agreement covering pay negotiations for the whole of the engineering construction industry may be established.

The National Economic Development Office announced yesterday that a set of proposals for a national agreement, drawn up by the Engineering Employers Federation, the Oil and Chemical Plant Construction Association, and the main craft and general unions which they will recommend to their members.

The proposals are expected to form the basis of a national agreement for the engineering and construction industries covering work on large sites.

Discussions and negotiations have been going on for three or four years, but no concrete proposals have emerged until now for a national agreement.

The intention of the agreement is to provide an accord between the various unions and employers to prevent leap frogging attempts by some crafts over pay on large construction sites.

It was this individual pay bargaining, among other factors, which disrupted work at the Isle of Grain power station last year.

The present proposals put forward at yesterday's meeting cover around 30,000 of the workforce. If the members of both unions and employers reach agreement they are expected to be implemented by next November.

In the meantime a provisional national joint council has been established which will meet for the first time later this month. If these proposals are agreed they will provide the basis of a new operating agreement on large construction sites and improve productivity.

Discussions on the formulation of a national agreement arise out of a NEDO document, the Engineering Construction Performance Report, published in 1977. This was used as a basis of negotiation between the employers and the unions, but discussions have broken down on a number of occasions over the past three years.

It is hoped the national agreement will prevent gully incidents such as at the Isle of Grain dispute.

A positive side to the growth of Britain's black economy

From Mr J. McCarron

Sir, What struck me about your leader "Let's have it in cash" on 28 May is that it gives the clue for expansion of the economy, without inflation. As you say, the black economy is not wholly negative phenomenon. The growth of activity has arisen because individuals cannot find continuity of work when the cost of labour is taken home pay (P) plus income related taxes (T). However, when the price is taken home alone the demand is there. It follows that if the Inland Revenue succeed in establishing a method to collect tax from these individuals the value added to the wealth of the country which by your estimate is 8 per cent of the GDR will disappear, and the ranks of unemployed will grow pulling the Government into greater debt.

These individuals and groups are operating beneath the economic margin in our economy. Other respectable groups are also tapping this level of demand. In so far as groups like BL and BSC are in receipt of subsidies equivalent to the income related taxes they pay to the Inland Revenue

they are tapping demand beneath the margin within the sanction of law.

Whilst none of these examples pay tax, they benefit the country by creating wealth and employment. We can extend this benefit by absorbing companies from income tax until their receipts are greater than their costs plus take home pay and assessing tax only on this surplus. New business would come into healthy surplus more quickly, minimizing the need for financial backing; the black economy would come into the light.

Since these companies would offer their services at less than market rates the effect would be deflationary. The important fact is that there is a level of demand lying virtually untapped in the economy at a time when demand is cardinel. Rather than seeking to stifle it by taxation the Government is better advised to encourage its full exploitation and diminish its unemployment bills.

Yours faithfully,
J. MCCARRON,
2 Abinger Road,
London, W4.
May 29.

From Mr J. P. W. Holloway

Sir, You state (editorial, May 28) that the answer to tax evasion may be increasing indirect taxation—namely VAT. Surely, however, VAT provides the greatest incentive to members of the general public to pay cash and evade tax. In the example you quote of the plumber insisting on payment in cash, there is a benefit to both plumber and payer. The plumber receives a sum on which he pays no tax and the payer receives an immediate 15 per cent reduction (the VAT element) on the price he would have had to pay if he had not paid in cash. If no such benefit accrued to the payer, no doubt people would be less inclined to pay plumbers etc. on the spot, especially if they realize that ultimately such cash payments may lead to the payer himself paying more by way of increased taxation.

Yours faithfully,
J. P. HOLLOWAY,
66 Fullerton Road,
London, SW18.
May 30.

Advice for businessmen

From Mr G. J. ff. Chance

Sir, As a postscript to his obituary, published in your newspaper on May 21, your readers may be interested in the advice given to Sir Hugh Chance by his father, George, 60 years ago at the outset of his long career in business and the public service. Among the papers left by Sir Hugh, I have found a memorandum dated July 1920, when he started work at the Chance Brothers glass works in Smethwick, the family business (now part of the Pilkington Group) of which he later became chairman. These are extracts from what his father wrote:

"Carry out promise or threat, and never make either without seeing the way through. Should be suggested to you, or unforeseen circumstances, be as outspoken as possible as to reasons and, in case of a promise not fulfilled, try to give satisfaction in some other way."

"Let people find by experience that your word is your bond. Talk to the workers of the old traditions which served our forebears as a 'code of behaviour' have disappeared, and while they may have been used without much thought or criticism, they did give people a standard of conduct and behaviour. However, we can't stand still and must put new people to work on new projects. We must advance unless we remember that we still need principles, and that if we expect decent and honest behaviour from others, we must ourselves behave in like manner."

Yours faithfully,
G. J. ff. CHANCE,
Rhosyll Fawr,
Chwylog.

Income tax and the pensioner

From The Reverend H. C. Hurford-Veazey

Sir, Having just completed my first tax return after retirement, I have discovered that it is almost impossible to make a correct return of income. One's pension book lists for a few months and is then kept by the Post Office. In November, which is a little over the half-way of the tax year, the pension is increased. Some weeks, it is difficult to remember how many, are at the old rate of tax and the rest at the new tax rate. This makes extra work for the pensioner and for the tax collectors. Is there any reason why the annual rise in government pensions and other similar payments should not take place at the beginning of the financial year? Surely this would save a great many hours of work and would save the Government money.

H. C. HURFORD-VEAZEY,
Five Oaks,
Pluckley Road,
Charing,
Kent, TN27 0AJ.

Yours faithfully,
G. J. ff. CHANCE,
Rhosyll Fawr,
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Yours faithfully,
G. J. ff. CHANCE,
Rhosyll Fawr,
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To the Shareholders of EAGLE STAR HOLDINGS LIMITED

DO NOT TENDER YOUR SHARES TO ALLIANZ

- ★ Your Board's advice is that Allianz's offer of a maximum of 290p—before taking into account any liability to capital gains tax—is not enough
- ★ In addition it does not reflect the premium that Allianz should pay to acquire such a significant shareholding in Eagle Star
- ★ Your Board is writing to you today to explain in full the reasons for this advice



Eagle Star

COMPANY MEETING NOTICES

MAKINS LIMITED

NOTICE OF HOLDERS OF BEARER WARRANTS

Holders of Bearer Warrants in Makins Limited are notified that the Annual General Meeting will be held at the Registered Office, 15, Abchurch Lane, London, EC4N 3DF, on 27th June 1981, at 11.00 a.m.

The business to be transacted at the Meeting is as follows:

1. To receive and approve the Report and Accounts for the year ended 31st December 1980.

2. To elect or re-elect members of the Board of Directors.

3. To consider and, if thought fit, to approve the proposed dividend for the year ended 31st December 1980.

4. To consider and, if thought fit, to approve the proposed dividend for the year ended 31st December 1979.

5. To consider and, if thought fit, to approve the proposed dividend for the year ended 31st December 1978.

6. To consider and, if thought fit, to approve the proposed dividend for the year ended 31st December 1977.

7. To consider and, if thought fit, to approve the proposed dividend for the year ended 31st December 1976.

8. To consider and, if thought fit, to approve the proposed dividend for the year ended 31st December 1975.

9. To consider and, if thought fit, to approve the proposed dividend for the year ended 31st December 1974.

10. To consider and, if thought fit, to approve the proposed dividend for the year ended 31st December 1973.

11. To consider and, if thought fit, to approve the proposed dividend for the year ended 31st December 1972.

12. To consider and, if thought fit, to approve the proposed dividend for the year ended 31st December 1971.

13. To consider and, if thought fit, to approve the proposed dividend for the year ended 31st December 1970.

14. To consider and, if thought fit, to approve the proposed dividend for the year ended 31st December 1969.

15. To consider and, if thought fit, to approve the proposed dividend for the year ended 31st December 1968.

16. To consider and, if thought fit, to approve the proposed dividend for the year ended 31st December 1967.

17. To consider and, if thought fit, to approve the proposed dividend for the year ended 31st December 1966.

18. To consider and, if thought fit, to approve the proposed dividend for the year ended 31st December 1965.

19. To consider and, if thought fit, to approve the proposed dividend for the year ended 31st December 1964.

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31. To consider and, if thought fit, to approve the proposed dividend for the year ended 31st December 1952.

32. To consider and, if thought fit, to approve the proposed dividend for the year ended 31st December 1951.

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36. To consider and, if thought fit, to approve the proposed dividend for the year ended 31st December 1947.

37. To consider and, if thought fit, to approve the proposed dividend for the year ended 31st December 1946.

38. To consider and, if thought fit, to approve the proposed dividend for the year ended 31st December 1945.

39. To consider and, if thought fit, to approve the proposed dividend for the year ended 31st December 1944.

40. To consider and, if thought fit, to approve the proposed dividend for the year ended 31st December 1943.

41. To consider and, if thought fit, to approve the proposed dividend for the year ended 31st December 1942.

42. To consider and, if thought fit, to approve the proposed dividend for the year ended 31st December 1941.

43. To consider and, if thought fit, to approve the proposed dividend for the year ended 31st December 1940.

44. To consider and, if thought fit, to approve the proposed dividend for the year ended 31st December 1939.

45. To consider and, if thought fit, to approve the proposed dividend for the year ended 31st December 1938.

46. To consider and, if thought fit, to approve the proposed dividend for the year ended 31st December 1937.

47. To consider and, if thought fit, to approve the proposed dividend for the year ended 31st December 1936.

48. To consider and, if thought fit, to approve the proposed dividend for the year ended 31st December 1935.

49. To consider and, if thought fit, to approve the proposed dividend for the year ended 31st December 1934.

50. To consider and, if thought fit, to approve the proposed dividend for the year ended 31st December 1933.

51. To consider and, if thought fit, to approve the proposed dividend for the year ended 31st December 1932.

52. To consider and, if thought fit, to approve the proposed dividend for the year ended 31st December 1931.

53. To consider and, if thought fit, to approve the proposed dividend for the year ended 31st December 1930.

54. To consider and, if thought fit, to approve the proposed dividend for the year ended 31st December 1929.

55. To consider and, if thought fit, to approve the proposed dividend for the year ended 31st December 1928.

56. To consider and, if thought fit, to approve the proposed dividend for the year ended 31st December 1927.

57. To consider and, if thought fit, to approve the proposed dividend for the year ended 31st December 1926.

58. To consider and, if thought fit, to approve the proposed dividend for the year ended 31st December 1925.

59. To consider and, if thought fit, to approve the proposed dividend for the year ended 31st December 1924.

60. To consider and, if thought fit, to approve the proposed dividend for the year ended 31st December 1923.

61. To consider and, if thought fit, to approve the proposed dividend for the year ended 31st December 1922.

62. To consider and, if thought fit, to approve the proposed dividend for the year ended 31st December 1921.

63. To consider and, if thought fit, to approve the proposed dividend for the year ended 31st December 1920.

64. To consider and, if thought fit, to approve the proposed dividend for the year ended 31st December 1919.

65. To consider and, if thought fit, to approve the proposed dividend for the year ended 31st December 1918.

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Now sterling puts the pressure on interest rates

Shergar may have dominated the track down at Epsom yesterday but in the foreign exchange markets it was sterling that led the field, though whether it was running in the right direction might, of course, be a matter for argument.

After its steady slide of late, the pound met significantly increased selling pressure yesterday, falling sharply not only against the dollar but, for once, against the European currencies, too. Just how strong a magnet the \$2 level is to market operators is not really clear and opinions differ widely on the extent of support sterling would find around that level. What does seem clear, however, is that the authorities are increasingly nervous and all the signs yesterday were that they were supporting the currency fairly actively once it slipped below \$2.03.

Exactly what sparked off yesterday's selling, and why, is the usual mystery in foreign exchange markets. The Mexican decision to cut their oil price by \$4 a barrel was not unexpected, any more than a cut in the North Sea price would come as a surprise. What we seem to have at the moment, however, is a combination of factors working against sterling: worries about the oil price, fears that dollar interest rates may not come down quickly, and a feeling that sterling has come to look increasingly overvalued vis-à-vis EMS currencies.

The United Kingdom Government would probably not object to some further depreciation against the European currencies but it must be worried about a further fall against the dollar. So far, we have been able to stand aside in the international interest rate war. The question now must be whether or not we can continue that stance if sterling remains under pressure over the next few weeks.

EUROCURRENCY INTEREST RATES

	1 week	1 month	3 months
Sterling	11½	12½	12½
Dollar	18½	17½	17½
Swiss Franc	6½	9½	10½
Deutschmark	11½	12½	12½
Guilder	11½	12	12½
French Franc	24	24½	23½
Lira	19½	22	22
Yen	6½	7½	7½

Marley Deferred hopes

Marley set the scene for a dismal series of results from the building materials sector yesterday with news of an interim profits collapse from £10.4m to £5.1m. But the market had been steeling itself for even worse and the shares rose 1½p to 45p yesterday. None the less, the continuing relative strength of Marley and many of its rivals



Mr Owen Aisher, chairman of Marley.

is somewhat surprising given the long period of overperformance these groups enjoyed until March.

That relative strength was based on hopes of a continuing downward spiral in interest rates reactivating a somnolent housing sector. Recent events have of course suggested,

if anything, a complete reversal of that position.

Meanwhile, for Marley itself, spending heavily on DIY expansion the interest rate problem is doubly onerous. With borrowings rising to £90m as the group approaches the seasonal peak, interest charges of £5.9m have absorbed almost three-fifths of trading profits.

Marley has, of course, been hit especially hard because of the wet spring and should improve in the second-half on the performance which more than halved United Kingdom trading profits to £4m. Meanwhile, overseas trading profits, up 11 per cent at £6.1m, thanks mainly to a strong South African performance, should continue to show resilience.

Even so, Marley seems unlikely to produce profits of much more than £17.5m against the previous year's £15.9m in spite of the absence of rationalization costs which took £5.4m out of the pretax total last year.

Assuming of course that signs of the upturn emerge next year, Marley's longer-term attractions are as bright as any in the sector. But on a likely p/e ratio of 11 and historic yield of 7 per cent—the interim was partly financed from reserves—the shares could offer better buying opportunities before this year is out.

● Licensed dealers are currently in danger of being tarred with the same brush following the Department of Trade's action against three of them, and the collapse of Norton Warburg whose licence was renewed by the DoT less than two months before it failed.

It is not surprising then, after months of detailed work, that the two-year-old Association of Licensed Dealers in Securities has chosen this moment to present proposals for a sharp tightening of the Code of Conduct and a revision of the law to give it some bite. Broadly, it wants the 40-year-old Prevention of Fraud (Investments) Act and the Code weighted towards protection of the unsophisticated investor, and proposes stricter rules for investment managers.

Even with the will to change the law, the Department is unlikely to be given a Parliamentary slot for more legislation, after two huge companies Bills, and any compromise would serve to confuse rather than clarify. Codes of conduct are of little effect without a commitment from participants to abide by the rules, and a big stick if they do not. So there must be doubts about self-regulation's effectiveness in this case. Prerequisites for its membership—although still a secret—are apparently so high that they represent only half potential members. And as many as 20 dealers who hold a current licence have had to be turned down because they do not come up to scratch.

Comet Radiovision Backing a winner

Comet Radiovision failed to live up to its heady promise yesterday with interim figures showing value and volume turnover up by less than 3 per cent, to £118.1m and pretax profits up by 1.4 per cent to £5.74m. The shares, close to their high this year, shed 5p to 156p and the case for the group hinges mainly on the selling flair of the chairman.

The doubts about Comet are strong. The group rose through discounting electrical goods which other people like Currys now do just as effectively. The group admits that it is now so well represented around the country that new branches would simply take trade away from the old ones. The trough of the business cycle is expected to be this month or next and the diversification outside electrical goods, chiefly into the DIY group, Timberland and jewelry manufacturing are either losing money or making little. Comet Electrical increased profits in the half year by one-third, so the group's shares would stand a lot higher without the non-electrical side.

For the short term Currys looks the more interesting investment in electrical goods. Comet's appeal still lies in its operational gearing which can turn a 10 per cent increase in volume into a 40 per cent jump in profits. The group makes most of its money in the first half year so somewhere between £7m and £7.5m for the year seems in sight against £6.4m last time, and Comet's record must count for something.

Are we seeing a productivity miracle in Britain's industry? Many anecdotes from the factories suggest that we are: and even some critics of the Government's policy believe that tough conditions in industry are forcing companies to carry through changes which they should have made many years before.

One key piece of evidence which may look less than miraculous, but is in fact an encouraging pointer, is that the figures for productivity during this recession do not show as big a drop as happened in 1974-75, the period which most closely parallels what has been going on over the last 18 months.

The trouble is that all this evidence relates to one half of the recession, the half when output is falling. So far, the figures which support the idea that productivity is doing well are based on comparing the drop in output with the drop in employment.

Traditionally, recessions are marked by falling productivity because companies cut back the amount that they produce more steeply than they cut their labour force. In the 1960s this was a striking phenomenon. Unemployment was so low that many firms feared that if they dismissed workers during a downturn they would not be able to find people to fill the jobs when orders came back, as they were certain to do.

Companies hoarded labour. Because productivity is simply output per worker, this meant that productivity fell when recession set in, even though the productivity gain that could be expected when activity picked up.

The underlying trend of productivity growth, which is caused by changes in working methods and more investment,

remained fairly stable. So it was reasonable to look on the downturn in productivity while output stagnated as simply a deviation from that trend which would soon be reversed.

On that theory, the fact that productivity has not fallen very much is bad news, not good, in terms of prospects for productivity growth in the future.

What the optimists hope is that we are seeing something quite different from the past. They think that the underlying trend may have changed rather than that the explanation is simply that companies have adjusted more quickly to the gloomy prospects for the economy.

At this stage of the cycle we cannot say whether this is right. It could be that if companies ever find increased demand they will be able to meet it without taking on extra labour simply by using the workers they have more efficiently. Or it could be that they have just decided to carry on at capacity in the face of plant and people through the recession. There are certainly arguments in favour of the latter view.

No company manager can be sure that orders will ever come to justify holding on to his labour force. All that is certain is that the disaster which the cash crisis of 1974 and 1975 caused to many companies in the private sector. The pressures are thus all in favour of shedding labour as fast as possible.

So it could be that the explanation of the fairly favourable productivity figures is simply that companies do not expect that they will be able to get output up again in the reasonably near future. This would certainly fit in with the fact that the drop in employment during the present recession has been particularly marked.

As the National Institute pointed out

In a discussion of the issue this week, the drop in employment during the present recession has been more than twice as large in percentage terms as it was in the 1974-75 downturn. It may be significant that a fall in the number of people employed has been more important in maintaining productivity compared with 1974-75 than has been a reduction in hours worked. Dismissing people is a much more final act than cutting back on overtime or introducing short-time working.

One other piece of negative evidence completes the gloomy side of the picture. Manufacturing investment fell far more sharply than employment over the past year. Investment is forecast to decline again over the next year. At the end of this year it is expected to be about 30 per cent below the levels of late 1979.

That suggests that industry is battling down the hatches for a long period of low activity, rather than gearing up for a high productivity growth. Indeed, without the machinery to produce the goods, it is hard to see how workers will be able to increase their productivity very much.

One answer which is often given is a change in attitudes on all sides. There is certainly a willingness at present to accept cuts in manning levels to preserve jobs. But these cuts in manning levels are made against a background of falling demand. There is no reason to think that workers who were prepared to accept a cut in the number of jobs as output fell will not demand an increase in the number of jobs if output goes up.

The latest Confederation of British Industry survey contains rather ominously, reports from the North and North-west regions suggesting that labour attitudes may be hardening again.

That is the case against believing that productivity will do better over the present cycle than it has in the past. The case in favour is in part one of necessity. Unless it does, a lot of companies will go out of business over the next few years. Indeed, as long as the Government holds demand in check, the process of bankruptcy will ensure that only those who become more efficient survive.

What happens if productivity does rise? This question shows what a mess the Government has got itself into over the way it runs the economy. The view seems to be that this will be good because it will allow the economy to grow faster without facing inflationary pressures. At a time of reasonably full employment, that would be an impeccable analysis, but with unemployment at three million this winter, it has a rather different meaning.

The more that increased productivity becomes the deciding factor in the rate of growth, the more the Government is accepting the inevitability of high unemployment for as far ahead as it can see.

If it wanted to the Government could raise productivity at a stroke by cutting off the many schemes which it has to protect jobs. That would reduce the number of people employed by perhaps half a million, without having anything like an equivalent effect on output.

That would do little to help the economy or the Government. Productivity is certain to increase when output picks up. But we do not yet know whether the gain will be faster than at the end of previous recessions. And if it is, the Government's unemployment problems will get worse.

David Blake

Business News staff examine the debate over public corporation financing

Why state industry chairmen are angry

Peter Hill

Yesterday's meeting of the National Economic Development Council was a significant juncture in the campaign to persuade the Government to adopt a more flexible approach towards the financing of major public corporation investment schemes.

There is every indication that the debate is becoming increasingly intense as the summer wears on and decisions start being made on the next batch of state industry financing limits. The industries have already managed to attract considerable support for the cause of loosening the constraints and, significantly, the National Economic Development Office itself, in a lengthy paper to yesterday's meeting, says that detailed consideration of alternative means of financing public enterprise investment "appears desirable".

There are differences of emphasis among the advocates of a new approach, but it is quite clear that some relaxation of the scope for (at the very least) modification of present procedures would be both constructive and beneficial. The decision yesterday to set up a working party to study the alternatives is a modest step in the right direction.

The chairman of the various

nationalized industries are growing increasingly angry and frustrated about the way the Treasury tightly restricts their ability to finance worthwhile and potentially profitable major investment projects. Greater flexibility, the chairmen argue, would produce beneficial effects throughout industry, both public and private, and need not add to public sector borrowing requirements soaring steeply upwards.

The nationalized industry heads (like many others) are tiring of what they consider to be a "barren and divisive" debate over ownership in the public sector.

The two sectors of industry are massively inter-dependent, about £21,500m of business flows between the two each year — and in a carefully worded paper to the NEDC, the Nationalized Industries' Chairman's Group, it is altogether unrealistic to suppose that the well-being of either part of industry can really be enhanced by pursuing courses which weaken and contradict the other. The public and private sector businesses will either prosper together or decline together.

In the view of the chairman's group the policy of attempting

to control the money supply, while in many ways desirable, is a blunt instrument in so far as it inhibits the ability of state industries to plan effectively and carry through important investment programmes.

The Government and the Treasury (supported by the formidable Mr Walter Goldsmith, director general of the Institute of Directors) take the view that any loosening of the shackles which would lead to higher investment will increase the PSBR and thus reduce the availability of funds for investment by the private sector.

The Nationalized Industries' Chairman's Group responds that this is not necessarily so. The theory of "crowding out" is "noticeably ill supported".

Faced, then, with a stony-faced Chancellor and a pragmatic guard of Treasury mandarins around the PSBR, what do the state corporation chiefs think can be done to loosen the straitjacket?

They suggest that there are moderate and sensible accommodations which would make life easier for nationalized industries without in any way

undermining the foundations of the Government's economic policies. (What the state industries consider moderate and sensible the Government may, of course, consider totally inappropriate and nonsensical.)

The chairman's group argues in its paper that there is scope for relaxation in three principal areas. The first concerns the determination of investment limits. The corporations believe that the Government's assessment of its own short-term financial situation should not be the only criterion used to determine the level of investment that should be allowed.

The chairman want a wider range of factors to be taken into account in the decision-making process. As well as the link between the PSBR and the corporations' annual, external financing limits, other factors would include medium-term financial targets, which have considerable implications for investment and financing; the already established procedure under which the scale and content of public enterprise capital spending programmes; and the Government's views on pricing policies which bear closely on the need for external finance.

The chairman's group has

also called for a more precise distinction between revenue spending and capital spending within the framework of the so-called PSBR rules. As a preliminary to a hoped-for change the group wants an examination of the way in which the existing rules bear on the public sector.

As part of this study it advocates that the external financing limits should be broken down into their component parts to establish whether all of them need to be linked to the PSBR with the same degree of rigidity.

Finally, the group has put forward a plausible case for greater access to private sector finance. It argues that since the Government's own financing burden is increased appreciably by the large capital requirements of public enterprise businesses, it would be reasonable to consider means of reducing that burden by encouraging corporations to seek substantial funds from private sources to finance capital expenditure.

True, the Government already favours such a course, but is insisting on conditions, most notably the requirement that parts of state businesses to private sector ownership, which in some cases may be impracticable and, in others, commercially undesirable.

Frances Williams

Mr Brittan's muddled thinking

The nub of the problem over financing state industry investment is that by convention their borrowings are included in the public sector borrowing requirements (PSBR). This is because state industries, explicitly or implicitly borrow on risk-free government credit.

The Government is trying to curb the PSBR in its efforts to control money supply growth and inflation. But the industries claim that the limits on what they can borrow have been set so tight that they have been forced to scrap plans for worthwhile investment.

The Treasury response is that extra borrowing by state industries, whether private or public, through the National Loans Fund is now, will soak up available funds or drive up interest rates, choking off investment by private industry. This is the so-called "crowding out" argu-

ment. (Alternatively, other public spending would have to be cut to prevent the total of state borrowing from rising.)

As put by Mr Leon Brittan, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, in the Budget debate on March 11, "Allowing nationalized industries to raise money would be substituting additional investment in railways or water for investment in, for example, engineering or agriculture and would delay recovery of the private sector."

There are two reasons why this view is mistaken. First, as Mr Geoffrey Chandler, the director general of the National Economic Development Office, has pointed out, what evidence there is suggests that less borrowing by state industries would not produce an equivalent rise in borrowing by private industry, especially when demand is already depressed.

On the contrary, the substantial interdependence of public and private industry—with nationalized industries taking 80 per cent of telecommunications output, 85 per cent of mining machinery and 25 per cent of heavy electrical machinery, for instance—may even produce a "crowding in" effect. Extra public investment creates additional demand for private sector products, encouraging extra private investment.

The second reason why Mr Brittan is wrong is that there is absolutely no reason why public investment should not displace private investment if it can produce higher returns.

The chief complaint of the nationalized industry chairmen is that investment, such as expansion of the telecommunications network—which is clearly profitable by market

standards and which would if in the private sector have no difficulty in raising finance—is being prevented from going ahead. British Rail claims, for instance, that its electrification plans now under consideration by ministers—costing £775m over 20 years—would produce a return on capital of 11 per cent. By comparison, the present rate of return on capital in the private sector averages an abysmal 2 per cent (even before deducting interest and tax), down from about 6 per cent in 1978 before the start of this recession.

This provides some perspective for remarks made in April again by Mr Brittan that the return on many nationalized industry investments in the past has been "appalling low"—broadly nil on average in recent years.

Instead of trying to devise

clever means of taking profitable investment by state industries out of the PSBR by changes of definition or control—through privatization, least back from private firms and the like—the Government should be asking itself two questions: is the investment worthwhile in terms of its rate of return or other relevant criteria; and is it more profitable than other projects in the private or public sector that it would displace, if any?

If the answer to both questions is yes then means should be found to enable the investment to go ahead, even if this means increasing the PSBR. Otherwise, the Government will be failing in its duty to provide adequately and sensibly for the economic future of its citizens.

Frances Williams

Business Diary: Super Mac's soporific Chancellor • Ship builders

Loath as I am to add to Sir Geoffrey Howe's worries in these troubled days, I feel bound to reveal that the Chancellor has acquired a strange nickname from that arch-rival Tory figure Harold Macmillan.

Apparently SuperMac, who many now regard as the last of the true Tories, constantly refers to Sir Geoffrey as "the Anesthetist". Surprisingly, this does not arise from Sir Geoffrey's soporific speaking qualities (the ones which once led Denis Healey to say that being criticized by Sir Geoffrey was like being savaged by a dead sheep). The description was bestowed on him by Macmillan in memory of the time the former Conservative prime minister was waiting in the drawing room for the birth of his first child.

In stepped a mild, bespectacled anesthetist who turned out, Macmillan later reflected, to be the spitting image of the present Chancellor.

The nickname has caught on, notably among the wets who make up the meaningless clique known as the Bow Group. This motley collection of ultra-dumps now refers to the leaders of our country as "Herself, the Mod Monk and the Anesthetist". I find one good word to say about the Conservative Party of which it is allegedly a part.

Small wonder that two leading lights of the group, Jimmy Gordon and Ron Wotherspoon, have defected to the SDP. Their names were scarcely known

outside left-wing Tory circles, so the atmosphere at Number Ten is scarcely one of panic.

● For once a royal wedding curfew with some special claim to be appropriate. The Mac-Rolls-Royce of malt whiskies, is issuing a limited edition of a special blend made up of the two vintages of Prince Charles's and Lady Di's birth dates—1948 and 1961.

Such pretty compliments are not open to the wise men, for whom a blend of 1948 and 1961 could be guaranteed to be a vinous disaster.

The Royal Wedding Macallan has, as they say, been "marrying in the vat" since the couple's engagement was announced. Bonding started this week.

● Those same human beings among us who still fail to understand how aircraft get off the ground will doubtless be gratified to know that two of the craft taking place in the Observer Transatlantic Yacht Race are made of concrete.

Are their masters mad? Certainly not, says the Cement and Concrete Association—concrete boats are popular among amateur yacht-builders and one took part in the Observer race a couple of years ago.

I say "took part" advisedly: the hapless vessel failed to finish and a concrete yacht has, yet to reach the end of the Gordon and Ron Wotherspoon, have defected to the SDP. Their names were scarcely known

introducing your personal guide to London.



What a patriotic young woman is Lady Diana Spencer. If you open out the colour cover of the latest copy of High Life, the British Airways magazine, (shown above), you can see the good lady holding up the Rothmans Concise Guide to London as if she would hardly be seen anywhere without it.

Bearing in mind that many of the foreigners who wing



their way to these shores in July will be here to see her marriage, it is perhaps appropriate that she should be the one to be seen commending a guide book to London.

Of course, what has really happened is one of those coincidental marriages of advertising copy and editorial text which occasionally happen to all of us, though always in so pleasing a fashion.

Moore and Partners are sponsoring one of the boats, Amp UK Overseas, a 40-foot, 12½ ton Bermudian sloop, and the other is the 41½-foot 11½ ton centre-board ketch Wild Thyme.

Both are made from ferro-cement, a thin flexible shell

produced by plastering sand-cement mortar on to an armature of wire mesh. My yachting colleagues tell me that neither is expected to ramp home first in the race, but there is great interest to see which of the ferro-cement leads the other at the finishing line.

● The opening of the London branch of Berliner Bank AG, the eighth largest private bank in Germany, yesterday, should serve to remind us of our entrepreneurial past.

According to Dr Dietrich Beier, the Berliner's chief economist, the new branch con-

signes a long-standing relationship between the two cities. For instance, Berlin apparently owes its running water to British enterprise.

In 1853 the London Waterworks Company was set up to supply Berliners with water. Not only did we supply the technical skills, but also the capital by subscribing to the shares.

The British left the enterprise with its pockets lined. In 1873 the city of Berlin took over the waterworks company's shares.

Berliner itself has a unique history. It was created in 1950 by the city's most famous mayor, Ernst Reuter, who in post-war Berlin saw the necessity of capital for the city's reconstruction and consequently founded the bank.

Since no private banks were allowed, Reuter set up the Berliner and the city of West Berlin took it over. Today, the chairman is the mayor's son, Ezzard Reuter, who is also chairman of that other well known German institution, Mercedes.

Social disaster is confidently predicted at the fifth annual Mid-American Consumer Conference to be held later this year in Oklahoma City. The programme starts—Wednesday evening: 4.00 Registration opens; 6.00 Get Acquainted Reception; 8.00 Dinner on Your Own.

David Hewson

The General Scottish Trust Limited

A member of the Association of Investment Trust Companies

	Results for the year ended 31st March 1981	1981	1980
Total Income	£1,165,454	£1,034,469	
Revenue available for Ordinary Dividend	£602,288	£518,720	
Earnings per share	3.06p	2.63p	
Dividend per share	2.90p	2.50p	
Net asset value per share	82.80p	60.60p	
Net net assets	£17,923,542	£13,505,384	

Salient points from Mr. P.W. Turcan's statement
Both earnings and dividends per share increased by 16%, and net asset value increased by 36%. These results are very satisfactory, especially bearing in mind that dividend declarations, particularly by industrial companies were far less buoyant during the last few months of the year.

Every effort will be made to continue our record of steadily increasing dividend payments to shareholders and we foresee no reason why the dividend for the current year should not at least be maintained.

We have in mind that overseas markets may afford better value in the near future. Our U.S. and Japanese portfolios have outperformed the market indices in both countries—in the case of Japan, to a substantial extent.

Kellogg Trust Limited, a debt factoring company, has been successful in obtaining a full listing. It has just been announced that the Bank of Scotland is taking a large stake in the business of the Company, and our holding, which is now valued at £350,000 (compared with £200,000 at 31st March), shows a very substantial profit over cost.

Copies of the report and accounts are available from R.W. McGregor & Co., Secretary 4 Melville Crescent, Edinburgh EH3 7JB

FINANCIAL NEWS

Stock markets

Equities drift in quiet session

Business activity was low yesterday but the market remained relatively firm despite the revival of inflationary fears from the fall of the pound on foreign exchanges.

But the quiet trading came as no surprise with many investors and dealers away at the Derby. Once again special situations and trading statements provided most of the news. Continued uncertainty about the outlook for interest rates and the pound's 15 per cent drop against the dollar kept leading 5p to 500p and Electronics 13p to 348p, but closed 12p up at 345p. Farnell Electronics put on 24p to 514p, Ferranti 5p to 500p and Electronics 13p to 348p, but closed 12p up at 345p. Farnell Electronics put on 24p to 514p, Ferranti 5p to 500p and Electronics 13p to 348p, but closed 12p up at 345p.

So the quiet start to trading continued through the day until after the Derby. Prices then steadied before easing by the close. The expected poor results today from BP for the first quarter were also a dampening factor.

After a 14 dip at 10 am, the FT Index attempted to climb. At noon it was up 14 at 548.4 but by 3 pm it had dropped back to measure a 0.1 rise. By the close it was 0.3 down on overnight levels at 546.7.

Gilt remain a nervous market on worries of interest rate and dealers reported very little trading interest. Loans opened up to 1/2 lower to recover during the day. But by the close they had drifted down again to 1/2. Shorts were steady but still unclear where to go. Quiet conditions kept prices drifting and shorts closed 1/16 easier.

With many dealers absent the blue chip reported little trade with only modest plus signs against a few prices.

The news from Beecham that it has been given the go-ahead for its new drug Augmentin saw the shares gain 9p to 199p in late trading after drifting during the day ahead of today's results. The good prospects expected to be announced today saw Glaxo move up another 6p to 356 in sympathy. Glaxo is believed to have attracted recent United States buying.

Unilever continued its recent gains with another 7p rise to 560p but otherwise equities drifted to close unchanged. Fisons stayed at 156p, Courtaulds at 69p and Hawker Siddeley at 304p, but ICI gave up 4p to 264p. B&AT Industries gained 5p to 360p. Debenhams after recent good results, gave up 3p on profit taking. Reed International, on further consideration of figures, eased 7p to 251p. After the annual meeting at Blue Circle, at which the chairman's forecasts were not encouraging, the shares were unchanged at 456p. Tube Investments, after its denial of rights

issue, moved up 2p to 170p but Vickers was unchanged at 180p.

Although the extension of financial aid to Telecom was announced on Tuesday the news saw the electricals sector sparkle from the start of business. Standard Telephones and Cables which stands to benefit gained 10p to 520p and Telephones Rentals jumped at one time 20p to 348p, but closed 12p up at 345p. Farnell Electronics put on 24p to 514p, Ferranti 5p to 500p and Electronics 13p to 348p, but closed 12p up at 345p.

Dealers described particularly thin conditions which helped the exaggerated price movements. With several of the major electrical companies due out with results next month, jobbers are speculating whether this will produce the right issues the market is waiting for. Rascal and Plessey, which have both expressed interest in further United States expansions, are favourites.

Shares were suspended in Myson at 48p on the board's request because of a takeover approach. Shares have risen sharply from 25p a few months ago and only six weeks ago the group was hailed out by bankers.

Mixed trading news came from companies reporting. The predicted losses and no dividend at Avon Rubber saw shares dip 4p to 574p. On poor statements from Comet the shares fell 5p to 156p and Derwent gave up 33p to 87p. McCorquodale eased 4p to 146p after dismal results. Marley managed a 1p rise to 45p despite lower profits but a maintained dividend.

But better profits at East Midland Allied Press boosted shares 5p to 118p and satisfactory earnings put on 4p to 116p.

Higher than forecast profits saw Atkins Bros 4p better at 44p and Rowlinson Construction 4 1/2p up at 48 1/2p.

Ahead of results on Friday Bath and Portland made a 4p gain to 56p and Davies and Newman, with its annual meeting today, added another 7p to 136p after recent speculative interest.

Insurance broker Hogg Robinson, long regarded as a likely takeover target for an American broker, will today announce an acquisition of its own in the United States. The shares rose 3p yesterday to 118p.

Dundonian, after recent higher profits, retreated 3p to 74p, as did De La Rue with a 20p dip to 740p.

Satisfactory earnings at Alfred Dunhill saw shares gain 5p to 198p, and after announcement of Edw's subsidiary sale, shares put on 7p to 46p. Sella drew strength from better profits was Martin the Newsagent up 8p to 254p. But after the demand from 600 Group of an impending bid, F Pratt gave up 6p to 83p.

After the fading bid hopes at Polymark renewed talk of another takeover approach lifted the shares 17p to 112p. But after recent large gains on the back of a counter-offer, Charles Hill of Bristol slid 10p to 112p on profit taking. Elsewhere, speculative buying boosted Cavoods 6p to 228p and Pleasurama gained another 10p to 325p from interest.

Second City's 22m rights issue pushed the shares 5p down to 72p but news of a United States venture lifted Fothergill Harvey 6p to 157p.

Ahead of results next week Metal Box, a dull market after a full market after rights issue, rumpus, rose 8p to 190p and with the annual Estates and Phoenix.

meeting today, Austin Reed added 8p to 74p. Speculative demand lifted Dejean 11p to 175p and MP Kent 8p to 144p. Toner Kamsley was 3p better at 63p.

Shares were suspended on Haw Par on the Singapore market and dealings halted in London pending the news that Charter Consolidated sold its 117 per cent stake for \$856.5m, (\$12.8m) to United Overseas Securities.

On the bid front TW Ward has once again urged Tunnel Holdings' shareholders to accept its takeover offer. Ward's shares advanced 7p to 132p after satisfactory profits but Tunnel, unimpressed, was unchanged at 440p.

Insurance jobbers reported a thin market but some reinvestment activity in composite insurance with profits made from the Allianz raid on Monday for Eagle Star. Eagle Star added 1p, but Guardian Royal Exchange put on 6p to 292p, Commercial Union 5p to 164p and Royal 5p to 383p. Phoenix advanced 10p to 262p and General Accident 8p to 308p.

Banks were a quiet market but prices ended firmer through the sector. Midland finished 5p better at 318p, Barclays 3p at 403p and National Westminster 2p up at 358p. But Lloyds was unchanged at 346p. Hambros, with figures soon, jumped another 15p to 900p.

Equity turnover for June 2 was £145m (bargains 15,427). Active stocks, according to the Exchange Telegraph, were Ultramar, Rascal, Commercial Union, Polymark, Edw's, Shell, Reed International, Transport Paper, Glossop, Charles Hill, of Bristol, Debenhams, General Accident and Daejan Holdings.

Traditional options: Dealers reported quiet conditions yesterday. Calls were made in ICI, Birmah, Marley Docks, Ultramar, Eagle Star, Amalgamated and Sovereign Oil & Gas.

Coalite Group, the solid fuels maker with interests in oil refining, builders' merchandising and vehicle building, edged up second-half profits and after a 16 per cent interim increase to £7.35m, the year's total was up from £20.5m to £21.5m before tax.

But although profits have risen, the underlying trend appears to have been static or even downwards. The previous year was depressed by a lengthy strike which reduced smelter fuel production and cost the group about £3m in lost profit.

Group sales in the year to March 31 rose from £335m to £358m. Coalite seems to have seen some benefit, mainly in the second half from interest received on the £10.9m raised from shareholders last July. In the first half, net interest received was down from £464,000 to £170,000 but ended the year only £49,000 lower at £538,000.

The final dividend has been raised from 3.66p gross to 4p, leaving the year's total up to 6p per cent to 5.94p on the capital enlarged by the rights issue. The shares closed 4p higher at 116p yesterday.

Earnings per share have benefited from the release of stock relief under the provisions of the 1981 Finance Bill. This reduced the tax charge by £2.36m to £2.19m compared with £5.84m the previous year. Earnings before tax increased from 15.9p to 24.0p.

Under current cost accounting, pretax profits are reduced to £13m. The main impact of the current cost adjustments came from £4.8m of extra depreciation and a £3.03m cost of sales adjustment. However, the dividend was still covered more than three times by current cost earnings per share.

Coalite raised money through a rights issue last year to fund further expansion, and possible investment in the North Sea. The group has a near 6 per cent stake in Sovereign Oil & Gas.

Coalite lifts payout after slight rise in profits

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EMAP tops forecast with rise to £4m

By Peter Wilson-Smith



Mr Frank Rogers, chairman of East Midland Allied Press.

A strong performance by its national magazines allowed East Midland Allied Press to keep profits moving ahead in 1980, despite the decline in advertising experienced by provincial newspaper groups. Both BPM and United Newspapers have reported much reduced profits in recent months but EMAP's share rose from £3.30m to better-than-expected £4.05m in the year to March 28.

The final dividend also is higher than was forecast at the time of last November's £2.9m rights issue. The 3.29p gross final leaves the year's total up by 7p per cent to 5p with the "A" shares up 5p to 118p yesterday the yield is 4.2 per cent.

Interest on the rights issue money contributed about £100,000 to profits but the main impetus came from national magazines, where profits rose from £1.4m to £2.3m. This partly reflects much lower losses from Match Weekly—the football magazine—which cost £600,000 in 1979-80 when launched. But advertising volume was still 7.7 per cent lower, and

publications, with EMAP benefiting from its strong market position in the gardening, angling and motorcycling markets.

Although EMAP's provincial newspapers have limited exposure to employment advertising—the area worst hit by the recession—their volume was still 7.7 per cent lower, and

Time Products, the watch and clock distributors, manufacturers and jewelers, saw pretax profits dip from £5.5m to £3.25m in the year to January 31. Turnover fell from £27.7m to £23.1m.

The final dividend is unchanged at 2.57p.

The board says that the company has been holding its market share and should be able to react swiftly to any upturn. Commenting on the present year, the board says: "Though conditions during the first months of the current year continue to be difficult we are confident that once circumstances permit, the company will return to its long-established record of growth."

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Dunhill has worst year since 1972

For Alfred Dunhill, at the luxury end of the tobacco market, last year turned out to be one of the toughest on record. The group, which is 51 per cent owned by Rothmans, saw pretax profits plunge from £5.5m to £2.8m.

The group has not produced a worse result than this since 1972, and until 1979 boasted a record profit of £10.8m. Mr John Wood, the group's company secretary, said yesterday that the figures covering the 12 months to March 31 had been hit by exchange factors, inflation, high dollar interest rates and worldwide recession.

In spite of the setback, Dunhill has lifted the final dividend fractionally to 8.5p gross. But this does not fully compensate for a cut in the interim, and total payments are down by almost one fifth at 14.25p gross.

Attributable profits in fact rose slightly to £4.7m, thanks to a tax credit's result of a stock relief write-back, and an extraordinary profit of £1.2m from the sale of subsidiaries, and the group's investment in Asprey, the jewellers.

In December, Dunhill sold its Collingwood jewelry business for £1.35m after making an unsuccessful move to buy Asprey.

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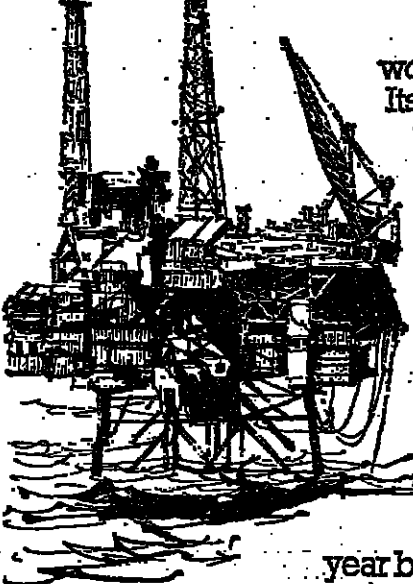
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Matthew Hall

Professionalism and new skills contribute to a further profit increase.

Matthew Hall is a British Company engaged worldwide in two main streams of activity—plant design and contracting serving the needs of all the principal energy industries, and the design and installation of building engineering services and electrical and instrumentation systems.



Oil, Gas and Chemical Engineering

The Group employs, worldwide, over 6,500 people. Its reputation is that of "engineers to the professionals", trusted to provide specialist services to the world's leading contractors and industrial companies.

It is this professionalism and the constant development of new skills that have contributed to the 22% increase in pre-tax profits for 1980 reported by Sir Rupert Speir, Chairman, in his annual statement to shareholders.

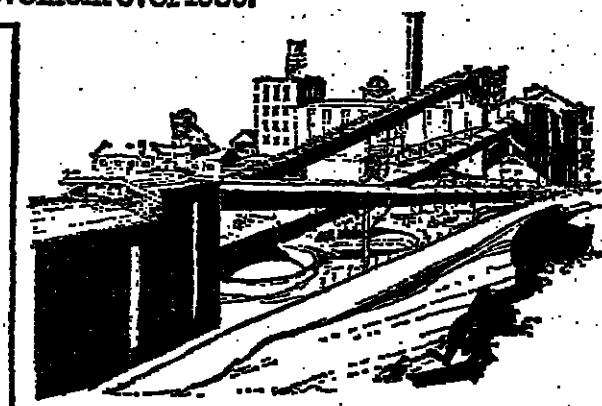
The contribution from the UK and Australian Building Engineering Services sector was increased and the electrical activities of Holiday Hall returned to profit. The Oil and Chemical Engineering operations continued to progress with improved results from Holland and Australia.

Coal, Mining and Materials Handling experienced a difficult year but, nevertheless, this sector improved its profit contribution.

A 1-for-1 scrip issue is proposed, as is also an increased final dividend of 6.552p.

In spite of many adverse factors the Group enters 1981 with a good workload but margins on all new work are under pressure. However, barring unforeseen circumstances, the results for 1981 are expected to show an improvement over 1980.

Summary of Results		1980	1979
Turnover	£000	253,664	219,960
Profit before taxation	£000	9,208	7,570
Taxation	£000	406	1,838
Exceptional taxation credit	£000	(7,862)	—
Profit attributable to shareholders	£000	16,660	5,729
Dividends per share (gross)	p	12.18p	10.51p
Earnings per share—excluding exceptional taxation credit	p	51.48p	22.74p
including exceptional taxation credit	p	97.48p	33.52p



Mining and Materials Handling

Copies of the Annual Report 1980, containing the Chairman's Statement in full, available from the Secretary.

MATTHEW HALL & CO., LIMITED
101-108 Tottenham Court Road, London W1A 1BT

Briefly

Tote and Co. Mr. Bryan Tote, chairman, says in his annual statement that whilst there are

FINANCIAL NEWS

Cons Gold has 5.6pc of Ultramar

Consolidated Gold Fields, the mining finance house, revealed yesterday that it has built up a 5.6 per cent stake in Ultramar, the oil company.

But a Cons Gold spokesman said that there was no intention of taking over Ultramar, or even of acquiring a strategic stake. Cons Gold said, however, that it might continue to buy Ultramar shares in the market. Cons Gold's previous stake in Ultramar was 3 per cent. The extra 2.6 per cent was bought as a block from an undischarged seller for £6m. The shares will be held as a portfolio investment.

House of Fraser plans expansion

House of Fraser has agreed to invest £2.9m in the building of a single storey computer warehouse and distribution centre in the Bristol area intended to serve the Dingle Group of stores.

The Warehouse will be fully operational by the spring of 1983. Anticipated savings in distribution and warehousing costs will prove substantial. The board has also agreed to invest £2.7m in expanding the existing Army and Navy Store in Bromley, Kent. The building work will begin immediately and add a further 30,000 sq ft to the existing store.

Derivend Stampings' net loss tops £1m

On turnover down from £55.1m to £51.4m, taxable profits of Derivend Stampings dropped from £1.9m to £168,000 for the year to February 28. After tax there was a loss of £1.38m against a profit of £1.97m. The dividend was cut from 12p to 9.4p gross.

The group is currently trading profitably, and demand is picking up.

Hill and Smith acquisition

Hill and Smith has acquired Birtley Manufacturing, a maker of galvanneal steel coils and garage doors for £530,000 cash. Net tangible assets of Birtley as at July 31 were £2.45m and net losses £128,000. After taking into account capital sales and transfers made by Birtley since July 11, its net tangible assets on acquisition amounted to some £1.34m.

Rowlinson jumps to £420,000

Taxable profits of Rowlinson Construction Group went up from £62,500 to £420,500 for the year to March 31. The result reflects a tax credit of £493,000, against a debit of £18,000, and came on turnover of £10.2m against £6.5m. The dividend is held at 0.85p gross. The board expects profit to rise this year.

Full-year loss at Irel reduced to \$62m

Irel Corporation's loss for 1980 was \$62.1m (\$30.7m) compared with a loss of \$443.3m in 1979. Irel's 1980 loss results primarily from the burden of high interest expense—\$154.7m in 1980 compared with \$123.3m in 1979—and from lower operating revenue from continuing operations because of weakened economic activity in the United States during 1980. The loss from continuing operations was \$74.7m on revenue of \$207m compared with a loss of \$49m on revenue of \$221.6m in 1979. Irel says it expects revenue from continuing operations to remain at a reduced level in 1981.

City of Dublin advances

City of Dublin Bank has announced a 13 per cent increase in pretax profit from £1,777,000 (£1,777,000) to £2,000,000 (£2,000,000) for the six months to March. Earnings per share are up from 2.45p to 2.51p and the interim dividend is unchanged at 0.875p per share. Mr Thomas Kenny, the chairman, reports a further growth.

Monsanto optimistic

Mr John Hanley, chairman and chief executive of Monsanto, said in London yesterday that 1981 should be a much more acceptable year for the company's profits than 1980. Mr Hanley said that first-quarter results were encouraging, with textiles operations in the black for the first time.

Business appointments

Mr David Palmer to be chairman of Willis Faber

Mr David Palmer is to become chairman of Willis Faber at the end of this year. Mr Richard Bowles will be a deputy chairman of Willis Faber and Willis Faber & Dumas from July 1. Mr Rupert Hambro, executive director of Hambro Bank, has been named a director of Anglo American Corporation of South Africa. Mr L. Hightington, formerly managing director of Northern Strip Mining, is now a joint managing director of Minicorp (Europe). Mr J. R. Hall becomes managing director of Northern Strip Mining. Mr J. Stringfellow is now managing director of Minicorp's subsidiary Martin Kennedy. Mr Malcolm Perkins has joined the board of Unocrome Industries. Mr G. L. P. Kidson has been made a director of Goddard (LDA). Mr R. E. Ford becomes a non-

Avon Rubber in red

By Catherine Gunn

After returning in a first-half loss of £151m, the Avon Rubber tyre group expects to make a loss for the full year to September 31. Over the whole of last year a fall in demand in the second half left the group with a profit of £840,000.

The group took a further beating in the first quarter of the current year, with demand for tyres still falling, while a strong pound turned export sales into losses. Avon ended the six months to April 14, with the pretax loss against a profit of £764,000.

There is no interim dividend, against 5.7p gross, and the shares fell 5p to 97p yesterday.

The market for tyres and tyre-related products remains a shambles, with serious over-

capacity in Europe. However, the reorganization and related redundancies carried out, at Avon last year, and in the first part of this year, now total 1,800 jobs lost. This should reduce tyre losses, while the much smaller other interests are doing well. If tyre prices can be increased, which Mr Peter Fisher, group managing director, doubts, Avon Rubber could break even in the second six months of this year. But Mr Fisher said the group will definitely make a full-year loss.

Although the group is concentrating its expenditure on its non-tyre operations, which are growing fast, the bulk of the business still comes from the tyre market, and a £268m drop in operating profits to

£1.83m before depreciation, reflects its collapse.

Turnover fell by £2.86m to £78.3m, reflecting the fall in demand and the recent sales of Avon Medicals and Agricultural Engineering, whose combined annual turnover is £13m.

Proceeds from those sales will go towards further reducing debts. Interest costs in the first half fell by 24 per cent to £1.7m.

Reorganization, closure and redundancy costs came to £501,000 in the first half, and a further £948,000 was written off after disposals. All are shown as extraordinary items.

Mr Fisher takes a very cautious view of the future. "The tyre market continues to be our biggest headache"

Dow to float off further 20pc of banking arm

American giant Dow Chemical expects to float off a further 20 per cent of its Swiss banking arm, Dow Banking Corporation, next year. In November, a quarter of Dow Banking's equity was sold to the public and the bank was listed on the Zurich Stock Exchange.

Dow Chemical has no intention of losing control of its Swiss bank. The value of its investment in Dow Banking has risen from the \$24m (about £11m) original outlay 14 years ago to more than \$150m now with just three quarters of the shares.

The only thing stopping Dow Chemical from realizing another parcel of its investment now is the weak Swiss stock market and, in particular, the slide in banking shares there.



Sir Rowland Wright (pictured), chairman of Blue Circle Industries, Britain's largest cement manufacturer, told shareholders at the annual meeting in London yesterday that performance overseas continued to be highly encouraging, whereas at home the picture remained depressing. By the time the results for the first half of 1981 were reported in August he hoped to have formed a reasonable view of prospects for the year.

The continuing recession in the United Kingdom construction industry is reflected in the level of both our cement and non-cement home sales.

How producers lost control of the price of platinum

Mining

Control over the price of platinum metals seems to have slipped from the hands of the producers after some 40 years of market domination. A sure sign is the odd fact that the free market price of about \$438 an ounce is \$17 below the producer price, while in New York near delivery prices are lower than for deliveries on the futures market.

Another telling feature is that for the first time sizable stocks seem to be passing into the hands of long-term investors.

The producers have never made a secret of their dislike of extensive free trading in platinum metals, and their suspicion of futures markets is deep. But two forces have jolted their confidence and weakened their authority in the market. One is partly of the producers' making: the rapid growth of platinum consumption in the last few years, led by new technical applications such as car exhaust catalysts. The other is related: the expansion of futures markets generally and the heightened interest of investors and speculators in precious metals.

Platinum's status has always been ambiguous. On the one hand it has been promoted as the most valuable of the precious metals; on the other, its main use by far has been industrial. Indeed, it was pre-

cisely because the scale, cost and difficulty of extracting platinum from the Merensky Reef in the central Transvaal made the metal so valuable that its price to industrial fabricators had to be stable.

Western countries buy around 170 tonnes of newly mined platinum, palladium, rhodium and other rare metals a year, a fifth of which comes from the Soviet Union. This is a tiny amount compared with the 1,000 tonnes of gold, 10,000 tonnes of silver and 500,000 tonnes of nickel consumed annually. Even so, just two decades ago the western market was a quarter of its present size. Of the total, roughly 40 per cent is palladium and 5 per cent rhodium.

Much the biggest producer in the West is South Africa (including the homeland of Bophutswana), which mines over 2m ounces a year. The Republic's two main platinum mining companies, Impala and Rustenburg, are huge operations. A grade of 1.5 ounces of metal for every 10 tonnes of material brought to the surface,

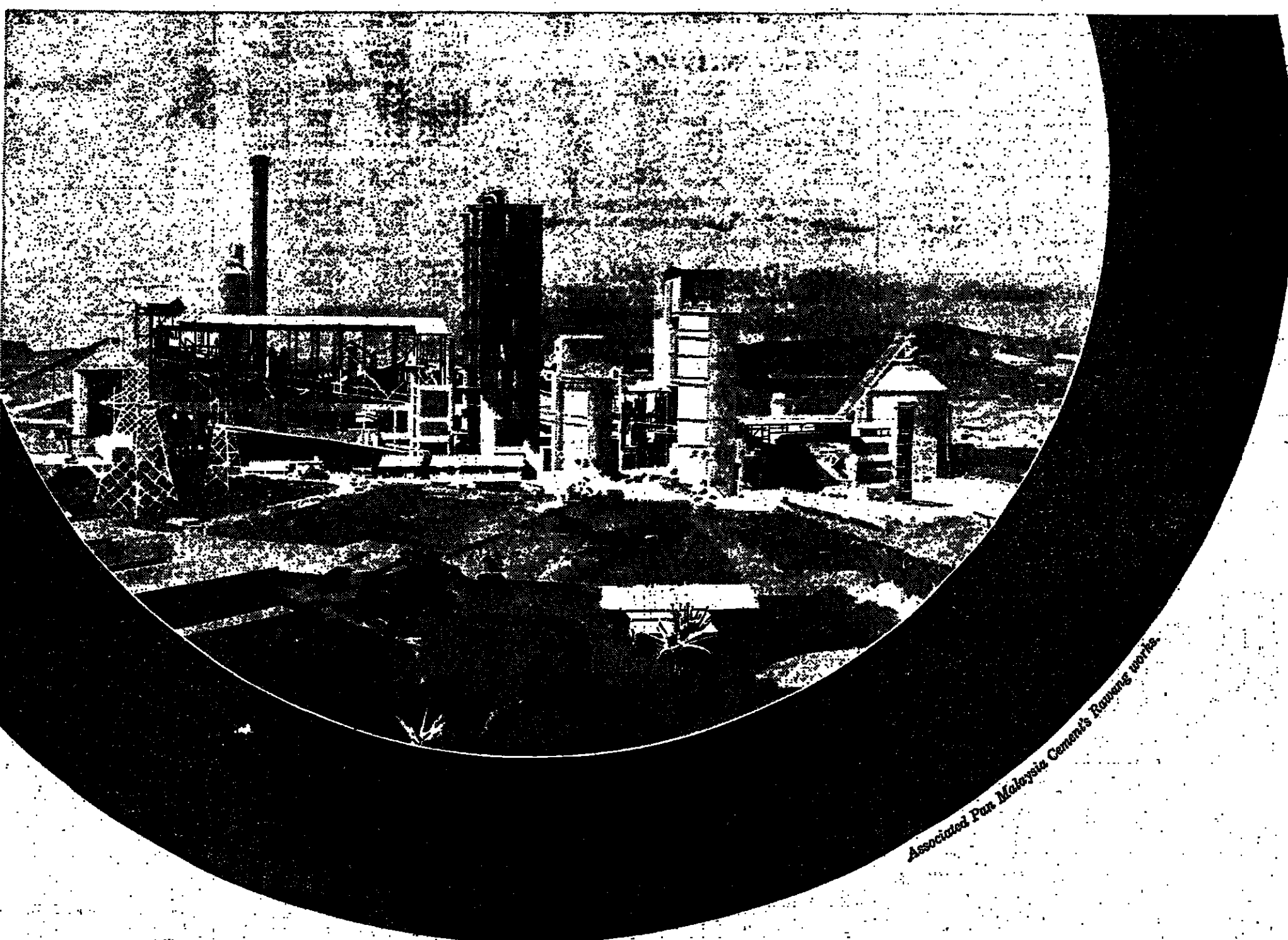
means that 60,000 tonnes of ore are extracted each day.

The mines found that in such circumstances they could not adjust production easily to every fluctuation in price. They therefore tacitly agreed on a producer price, which manufacturers were content to pay. A small free market gave some comparison, enabled manufacturers and traders to hedge their needs, and provided an outlet for investors. Since London offers only a physical price, those of a more speculative turn of mind went to New York where the New York Mercantile Exchange offers a futures contract.

It was this market which shattered the old producer pricing system. In 1979 the market was subject to two pressures: exciting about the quantity of platinum metals required for the car exhaust catalysts which became obligatory in the United States and Japan, and speculation in gold and silver.

As technical innovation raises demand, investors have decided that the price can only go up, so market sources think that at least 800,000 ounces are now held long term. So long as these circumstances persist, the producers will not regain the price initiative.

Michael Prest
Mining Correspondent



Blue Circle Industries: Continuing profit growth from our worldwide operations.

Points from the address by the Chairman, Sir Rowland Wright, to the Annual General Meeting on June 3.

An eventful year

1980 was an eventful year, and a year of progress in many areas. It is gratifying to be able to report to you an increase in our Group profits of 51% compared with 1979 and against the background of economic recession in the UK it will not surprise you that most of that growth came from our overseas companies.

In the UK our 1980 performance can be clearly divided into two halves, the strong market we enjoyed during the early months being followed by a sharp downturn in the second half, reflecting the deepening recession in the construction industry. Over the year as a whole we suffered a 7.8% fall in cement sales in the UK compared with 1979, but in the second half deliveries were over 18% lower than in the corresponding period in 1979. This substantial reduction in demand led to an acceleration in our programme of rationalising production and distribution arrangements as well as action to lower administration costs and other overheads.

On the other side of the coin, and re-affirming our faith in the long-term future of the UK cement industry, we have embarked on an important new investment programme which is designed to improve the energy efficiency of operations at Northfleet and Shoreham, as well as planning for a new dry process factory on the site of our Oxford Works.

Increasing investment overseas

We have recognised for some time now that prospects for any growth in cement consumption in the immediate future in the UK are, at best, very

limited. As a result, we have been developing a strategy of increasing investment overseas in countries where there are clear indications of economic growth. The contribution to our 1980 pretax profits from our overseas activities was over 60% of the total and in the second half of the year was approaching 70%. Outstanding profit growth was recorded in many areas with particular emphasis on Australia, Mexico, South Africa and Chile. We are currently engaged on a further programme of expansion overseas and I believe can look forward with confidence to continuing profit growth from our world-wide operations.

Faith in the future

Our performance overseas continues to be highly encouraging but at home the picture remains depressing. The continuing recession in the UK construction industry is reflected in the level of both our cement and non-cement home sales: during the first four months cement deliveries have been running at levels some 20% below those of the corresponding period last year.

However, investing more than £100 million in modernising our UK cement capacity confirms our faith in the industry's future. This is in addition to the millions we spend each year in an on-going replacement programme. Cement will continue to be the core of our activities, both at home and overseas, but we shall continue to seek opportunities to widen our earnings base, especially in the UK. The acquisition of the Armitage Shanks Group towards the end of last year was part of this strategy and offers us the

opportunity to expand in the home improvement area, a sector in which we have some experience through the activities of some of our other non-cement operations. We have recently announced plans to spend more than £10 million over a three-year period on improving the productivity of several Armitage Shanks factories.

Increasing rewards

We have every reason to be optimistic about the future of our Company. As the United Kingdom recovers from recession—as it surely must—we shall benefit from the improving efficiency of cement operations and the expansion of our non-cement activities, while overseas the major new investment programme will bring increasing rewards.

We already owe so much to the loyalty, enthusiasm and enterprise of those who work for the Company at home and overseas and we are confident that with this support in the years ahead our business will continue to prosper.

Blue Circle
Working around the world.

For copies of the Company's Report and Accounts, write to the Company Secretary, Blue Circle Industries Limited, Portland House, Stag Place, London SW1E 5BJ.

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ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, June 1. Dealings End, June 12. Contango Day, June 15. Settlement Day, June 22
 \$ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

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Director's Secretary

up to £8000: London

Our client, a leading British Group, seeks a senior Secretary to work for the main board Finance Director at their Head Office in Central London.

As a top-class secretary you will be involved in a full range of secretarial duties of a highly confidential nature. This will include contact with people at a senior level both within the group and the commercial/banking world.

You must have excellent shorthand and typing skills, be numerate and ideally have related experience in a financial/accounting environment at boardroom level. Diplomacy, discretion and enthusiasm are seen as essential qualities and you will also need to have a team member approach to both work and hours.

Rewards reflect the seniority and importance of the appointment. Salary will be up to £8,000, dependent on ability and experience, and could be even higher. Excellent benefits include BUPA, season ticket loan, 4 weeks' holiday and subsidised lunches.

Please telephone (01-629 1844 at any time) or write—in confidence—for a personal history form. M. Horden ref. A.1869.

This appointment is open to men and women.

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A member of MSL Group International

HARRIS & PARTNERS

Consulting Engineers

Harris is a diversified consulting engineering firm employing over 1000 specialists and technical staff in 23 offices around the world. Our projects range from port, harbour, marine terminal and offshore installations to petrochemical system and storage facilities, cost engineering and project/construction management. We have an immediate vacancy for the following—

Personal Assistant to New Business Manager

A mature person, aged 30-40 years, with previous marketing experience to assist Company's New Business Manager and to deputise for him during his frequent overseas visits. Particular responsibilities will include the preparation of press releases, sales technical literature, and marketing plans and statistics. The successful applicant will assist the New Business Manager and professional engineers in the preparation of engineering proposals. An 'X' level education and good typing standards are essential requirements.

Please write in confidence with full career details quoting reference M055 to Mr D.J. Rappley, The Recruitment Manager, Harris & Partners, 200 Grosvenor Street, London SW1A 4TB, Telephone 01-403 2424. WE ARE NOT AGENCY EMPLOYER.

Personal Secretary Advertising

We are a young advertising company in Soho looking for a self-starting lady who is not into the 9-5 syndrome. The rewards will be high and we guarantee plenty of job satisfaction to the right person. If you'd like to join this small but lively team please send full details of your career and qualifications to Jacquie Williams, 8 Carnaby Street, London, W.1.

LILLYWHITES LTD

SECRETARY TO THE CHAIRMAN/CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Lillywhites, world renowned for quality sports equipment and clothing, have a vacancy for a Senior Secretary to work for the Chairman/Chief Executive at our head office in Piccadilly.

This is an ideal opportunity for someone who is well organised and can deal diplomatically with people at all levels, as well as having excellent secretarial and administrative skills.

In return, we offer a competitive salary and fringe benefits which include generous discounts on hotels, holidays and sports goods.

Please apply in writing to Jill Dumbley, Personnel and Training Manager, LILLYWHITES LTD, Piccadilly Circus, London, W1.

NEW VENTURE

c. £6,000—SECRETARY

Would you enjoy being involved in setting up a small new company in the West End with two charming young Directors? If so, they will greatly appreciate your organisational abilities combined with good shorthand skills, initiative, flexibility and willingness to get involved with the company. This is an exciting opportunity for a self-motivated person who likes a challenge. Age 25-40. Ring 437 1124.

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DIRECTOR'S SEC/PA

c. \$4,250 + mortgage

A newly appointed Director of a substantial organization of a young SEC/PA to work closely with him in setting up a new department. Secretary duties must be good shorthand and typing skills, plus a good knowledge of the company and its products. The position offers scope for advancement. Age 25-40. 01-408 1811.

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SENIOR SECRETARY TO DEAN

Small friendly University College, International post office in addition to high standards of teaching, seeks a senior Secretary to assist the Dean in his duties. Good shorthand and typing skills, plus a good knowledge of the college and its products. The position offers scope for advancement. Age 25-40. 01-408 1811.

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c. £5,000—early review

This is a position in an expanding Management Consultancy Company. Ideally, you will have good shorthand and administrative skills, and the confidence and personality to delegate and to work as a member of a team of 6 secretaries. For further information, telephone.

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626 8524 Mrs Forbes

01-621 0566

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LEGAL SECRETARY GOLDERS GREEN

A partner of this small company is looking for an able secretary to deal with estate matters, conveyancing and/or company secretarial duties. Age 25-40. c. £5,250. Immediate.

Call Sue Raymond 836 5207

LAWSTAFF LIMITED

Recruitment Consultants

SENIOR PARTNER

Solicitor in Hammersmith with varied and outside interests (not conveyancing) requires Personal shorthand Secretary. Preferably 25+ with at least 3 years' legal experience. Ability to deal with estate matters. Sense of humour appreciated. 4 weeks holiday, Top salary. Telephone 342 9160.

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CHELSEA PRODUCTION STUDIO

RECEPTION/TYPIST

with imagination and flair for dealing with clients essential. Excellent salary plus a variety of additional benefits. 01-352 3939.

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Lively new ad agency in Covent Garden has two top vacancies.

SECRETARY/P.A. to Managing and Creative Partners.

RECEPTIONIST/TELEPHONIST (4x20 PABX).

If you are really bright, efficient and personable you might even talk us into giving you lunch vouchers and holidays. Hurry. These vacancies can't last. Send CV to Penny Robinson, LEGAS DELANEY PARTNERSHIP LTD, 11 Hatfield St, London WC2. Tel. 336 2665.

P.A./Secretary £8,500

New Managing Director seeks a smart P.A./Secretary to help him expand the U.K. end of a well-established multi-national company. Although shorthand and secretarial skills are essential a major part of the job will involve the handling and follow-up of various projects.

It will also involve P.R. and marketing activities and will suit the sort of person who enjoys socialising. Please Barry Kelly for an interview. Salary c. £8,500. Appointment on 428 5151 Agency.

SECRETARY/OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

HACAS is a non-profit making company that provides advice and assistance to various associations. We are looking for an experienced Secretary/Office Administrator to provide secretarial services for our small team of consultants and manage the office.

You will need to have organising ability, excellent secretarial skills and an unflappable composure. The consultants are often out of the office so you will need to be able to work on your own initiative. Salary c. £5,000, non-contributory pension, 4 weeks' holiday and paid overtime. Details and application form from: HACAS Ltd, St Richard's House, 114 Eversholt Street, London, NW1. Telephone: 01-587 6192.

CITY PA neg to £7,000

Our clients, a flourishing group of companies, seek a Personal Assistant for their young and dynamic Managing Director. This is a very exciting position where initiative will be rewarded. Location: London. Salary: £5,000-£7,000.

Elizabeth Hunt

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

18 Grosvenor Street London W1

Telephone 01-499 2921

AUDIO £7,000 +

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A partner of this small company is looking for an able secretary to deal with estate matters, conveyancing and/or company secretarial duties. Age 25-40. c. £5,250. Immediate.

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SENIOR PARTNER

Solicitor in Hammersmith with varied and outside interests (not conveyancing) requires Personal shorthand Secretary. Preferably 25+ with at least 3 years' legal experience. Ability to deal with estate matters. Sense of humour appreciated. 4 weeks holiday, Top salary. Telephone 342 9160.

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SOCIAL SECRETARY UP TO £7,750

A mature and confident Social Secretary is required by the Chairman of a world famous International Company and his wife.

You will be responsible for running two households involving basic accounting and the recruitment of staff, and previous relevant experience would be useful. Your other role will involve organising all social functions and looking after the diary during the Season.

Excellent secretarial skills (including shorthand) are naturally essential. A thorough knowledge of the Social Scene is vital, and the ideal person will have the versatility to liaise at all levels.

Contact Angela George 01-235 9384

4-5 Grosvenor Place, Hyde Park Corner, London SW1X 7SB

SOTHEBY'S

We are looking for an experienced Secretary with good shorthand and typing skills to work for the Director of the Porcelain Department.

Salary will be negotiable and conditions of employment are good.

Please contact: Mrs Alison Gillies, 01-493 8080

SOTHEBY PARKE BERNET & CO., 34-35 NEW BOND STREET, W1A 2AA.

SUPER P.A.

Super P.A. wanted to co-ordinate the London office (Pall Mall) and European activities of new venture for multi-million pound Venture based group of companies.

Reporting directly to the M.D., the successful applicant will be expected to be involved with London office procedures as well as in the course, regularly travelling to meet the various subsidiaries of the group.

Self-motivation, ambition and pleasant appearance are essential; languages will be a distinct advantage.

Salary £7,000 + negotiable

Write with your full c.v. to: MR A. B. BURNFORD, C/O SRAWUELS LTD., 41-42 FALM LANE, LONDON, SW1.

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

London Bridge

An interesting administrative job is immediately available in a large professional firm situated near London Bridge Station. The successful applicant will be a young graduate with good organisational ability, smart appearance and an outgoing personality. Preferred age 21-24 and typing is an advantage.

We offer a good salary and excellent company benefits. For further details please contact Mrs Irene Bryant on 407 8888 Ext. 3284.

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Executive Director of Int. Management Consultancy in P.A. position. A 1st class P.A. and a 2nd class P.A. and a 3rd class P.A. and a 4th class P.A. and a 5th class P.A. and a 6th class P.A. and a 7th class P.A. and a 8th class P.A. and a 9th class P.A. and a 10th class P.A. and a 11th class P.A. and a 12th class P.A. and a 13th class P.A. and a 14th class P.A. and a 15th class P.A. and a 16th class P.A. and a 17th class P.A. and a 18th class P.A. and a 19th class P.A. and a 20th class P.A. and a 21st class P.A. and a 22nd class P.A. and a 23rd class P.A. and a 24th class P.A. and a 25th class P.A. and a 26th class P.A. and a 27th class P.A. and a 28th class P.A. and a 29th class P.A. and a 30th class P.A. and a 31st class P.A. and a 32nd class P.A. and a 33rd class P.A. and a 34th class P.A. and a 35th class P.A. and a 36th class P.A. and a 37th class P.A. and a 38th class P.A. and a 39th class P.A. and a 40th class P.A. and a 41st class P.A. and a 42nd class P.A. and a 43rd class P.A. and a 44th class P.A. and a 45th class P.A. and a 46th class P.A. 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PERSONAL CHOICE



Mark Wing-Davey and Sandra Dickinson: (The Hitch-Hiker's Guide to the Galaxy (BBC 1, 7.55pm))

● THE HITCHHIKER'S GUIDE TO THE GALAXY (BBC 1, 7.55) has already been seen on BBC2, heard on Radio 4 and witnessed on stage. The least said is the soonest mended. The book, which is available, based on the TV series that was based on the radio series. What you may wonder if you have not already made contact with Douglas Adams's space fantasy, what is there about the work that merits all these transmissions, not to mention repeats? Boundless imagination, for one thing. Subtle wit, for another. And a sense of high adventure which, at one go, has practically put Mr Adams up there alongside Homer, Haggard, Verne and Wells. He is also strong on funny names. My only criticism is that his excellent jokes come at us so thick and fast that we miss one in three.

● IF it was that kind of needling programme, which it isn't, THE PURSUIT OF POWER (BBC 2, 7.50) could have carried the subtitle: "...and how it can give you the slip." For although Norman St John-Stevens is still an MP, much of his power base was cut away when Mrs Thatcher removed him of his triple-decker responsibilities as leader of the House of Commons, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and Minister for the Arts. The advantage so far as tonight's interrogation by Robert McKenzie is concerned, is that now that Mr St John-Stevens has been distanced from the Cabinet policy-making machine, he can probably review his life with a far greater degree of objectivity.

● DUNKIRK (BBC 2, 8.30), the story of the evacuation that took place 41 years ago today, is a study, worthy and self-sufficient, of war film more than a distinguished one. Its quality of authenticity derives equally from the skillful use of newsworthy material shot at the time and from the contribution to the writing of the screenplay by David Divine, former Sunday Times Defence Correspondent. At the time of the evacuation, Mr Divine was Naval Correspondent to the Thomson Group. These times, he crossed the Channel and brought troops back to England. For his pains, he was shot in the stomach. For his bravery, he was awarded the DSM.

● STUFFING IT (Radio 3, 7.30), Robin Glendinning's comedy for Radio Theatre 81, is a rather overwrought affair about a Belfast family's Christmas preparations that are turned upside down by the arrival of the daughter's Marxist boyfriend. The refreshing thing about it is that the sectarian troubles take second (if not fourth) place to domestic crises such as sexual permissiveness, the slamming of doors and the stuffing of the festive turkey.

WHAT THE SYMBOLS MEAN: †STEREO; *BLACK AND WHITE; (c) REPEAT.

Broadcasting Guide

Edited by Peter Davalle

TELEVISION

BBC 1

6.40 Open University: The Great Instauration: 7.30 Wintgenstein: The Quest for Meaning. 9.47 For Schools. Colleges: Food and Nutrition (2); 10.20 Photography; 10.35 Reggae Roots; 11.05 Deserts. 11.25 Cricket: One-Day Test. England versus Australia. The Prudential Trophy. from Lord's. Further live coverage on BBC this morning at 10.40, this afternoon at 12.00 and (highlights) tonight at 11.30. Closedown 12.45. 1.15 News and weather. 1.30 Check-a-Block: For the very young viewer. Closedown at 1.45. 2.00 You and Me: for the very young viewer. 2.15 For Schools. Colleges: Music Time; 2.40 Television Club (Just Fishing). Closedown at 3.00. 3.55 Play School: Anne Denery's story jumping Cat Tunes; 4.20 The Cat in the Hat: Panto; 4.40 Heidi: Final episode of this much-loved story of a little Swiss orphan girl. The happy ending, with Klaus walking again. 5.05 John Craven's Newsworld.

BBC 2

6.40am Open University: Forbury Copper Deposits; 7.05 Computing: hardware, structures; 7.30 Evaluating Arguments. 10.40 Cricket: One-Day Test. England versus Australia, from Lord's. The Prudential Trophy. More live coverage, also on BBC2 at 1.20 and highlights at 11.30. Both sides are limited to playing 55 overs. 11.00 Play School: same as BBC1, 5.55 (jumping Cat Tunes). Closedown at 11.25. 12.00pm Cricket: One-Day Test. Back to Lord's. The common-

Thames

9.30 For Schools: Understanding politics. 9.52 All about reflections. 10.09 Computers: training schemes. 10.31 Relationships, signs and signals. 10.53 A-level physics. 11.10 Three boys at a school camp. 11.27 Changing the Guard at Buckingham Palace. 11.44 Tale of an ivory dragon and a young lad. 12.00 Woolfitt: Puppet story for children, told by Michael Parkinson, with Digby Turpin's illustrations. 12.10 pm Get up and Go! Read and learn with your toys. 12.30 The Sullivan: Australian family saga during the last war. A proposal of marriage. 1.00 News. 1.20 Thames area news. 1.30 Take the High Road: A Scottish estate serial. An important business meeting for "Sorry" Watson (Ron Paterson). 1.40 News. 1.50 Thames area news. 1.55 Young at Heart: Comedy

drama series with David Yip in the title role. Tonight, he makes a final attempt to achieve his ambition — settle scores with the former police chief who did his father a grievous wrong. 10.15 Question Time: Robin Day is again in the chair. His panel consists of Lynda Chalker, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Health and Social Security; Denis Healey, Deputy Leader of the Labour Party; Paul Foot, writer and Daily Mirror columnist; and Lord Hill, Admiral of the Fleet. 11.20 Keleja: After his company is taken over by a completely new staff, an elderly jeweller is found murdered on the street. With Telly Savalas. 12.10 Weather forecast.

Regions

BBC 1 VARIATIONS: BBC Comedy/Wales: 11.30 pm-11.55 Search: (1974). 11.55-12.10 Wales Today. (1974). 12.10-12.30 Wales Today. (1974). 12.30-12.45 Wales Today. (1974). 12.45-1.00 Wales Today. (1974). 1.00-1.15 Wales Today. (1974). 1.15-1.30 Wales Today. (1974). 1.30-1.45 Wales Today. (1974). 1.45-2.00 Wales Today. (1974). 2.00-2.15 Wales Today. (1974). 2.15-2.30 Wales Today. (1974). 2.30-2.45 Wales Today. (1974). 2.45-3.00 Wales Today. (1974). 3.00-3.15 Wales Today. (1974). 3.15-3.30 Wales Today. (1974). 3.30-3.45 Wales Today. (1974). 3.45-4.00 Wales Today. (1974). 4.00-4.15 Wales Today. (1974). 4.15-4.30 Wales Today. (1974). 4.30-4.45 Wales Today. (1974). 4.45-5.00 Wales Today. (1974). 5.00-5.15 Wales Today. (1974). 5.15-5.30 Wales Today. (1974). 5.30-5.45 Wales Today. (1974). 5.45-6.00 Wales Today. (1974). 6.00-6.15 Wales Today. (1974). 6.15-6.30 Wales Today. (1974). 6.30-6.45 Wales Today. (1974). 6.45-7.00 Wales Today. (1974). 7.00-7.15 Wales Today. (1974). 7.15-7.30 Wales Today. 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A chronology of conflict

Seven months of defiance from Tony Benn

By Fred Emery
Home Editor

Mr Wedgwood Benn's humiliations of Mr Michael Foot, which have provoked the unprecedented challenge to him to fight it out for the party leadership, came after a seven-month crescendo of defiance. Indeed, Mr Benn vowed that he would be a candidate for the leadership even after Mr Foot had belatedly decided to enter the race against Mr Healey, but only once the party had set up its electoral college.

October 21, 1980: In a speech at Queen Mary College, London, Mr Benn derided the leadership election being conducted by the party's MPs. "What is happening now is not the real election. When there is a real election I will be a candidate", he said.

November 10: Mr Foot wins the Labour leadership on the second ballot by 135 votes to 129. Mr Benn subsequently disclosed he voted for Mr Foot in both ballots even though he had originally declared an election by the party's MPs alone to be illegitimate.

November 13: Mr Denis Healey elected unopposed as deputy leader.

November 18: Mr Benn announces candidature for election to the shadow Cabinet after consulting Mr Foot and being encouraged to stand.

November 20: Mr Benn on the first day of the new session of Parliament lets it be known to his supporters that after a meeting with Mr Foot he will not now be a challenger for the Labour leadership.

December 4: Mr Benn fails by two votes to gain election to the shadow Cabinet and indicates, afterwards, that he will not accept a front bench post at Mr Foot's invitation.

January 24: Wembley special Labour party conference votes to establish electoral college for leadership elections. Mr Benn switches from his pre-trade unions. Mr Foot's compromise formula of 50-25-25, with the main share for MPs is rejected; Mr Foot supports campaign to reverse Wembley decision.

January 25: Formation of the Council for Social Democracy, forerunner of breakaway Social Democratic Party.

January 27: Mr Benn automatically enters shadow Cabinet upon the resignation of Mr William Rodgers. First clash feared voting formula to back the surprise winning 40-30-30 ratio, giving the main share to between Mr Foot and Mr Benn at a private meeting of Parliamentary Labour Party.

January 29: Shadow Cabinet decides to seek reversal of Wembley decision.

February 18: At shadow Cabinet Mr Benn moves that the Wembley decision on electoral college be reversed.

February 20: Mr Benn asks that the matter be put to the parliamentary party Mr Foot retorts that it is wrong for minority views to go out from shadow Cabinet.

March 2: Twelve Labour MPs resign party whip to form the Social Democrats.

March 4: Labour MPs vote 144 to 24 to support Mr Foot's decision to reverse the Wembley decision.

April 2: At 3.30am Mr Benn announces he will contest the post of deputy Labour leader in the autumn election. Mr Foot's plea that he withdraw, until at least another year, is rebuffed by Mr Benn.

April 29: Mr Benn suggests to the shadow Cabinet that Mr Robert Sandys, the IRA hunger striker, be freed and allowed to take his seat as MP for Fermanagh and South Tyrone.

May 12: Mr Benn calls for British withdrawal from Ulster and for United Nations troops to be stationed there, in contradiction to official Labour Conference policy.

May 20: Mr Benn defies a shadow Cabinet recommendation to abstain in defence debate and with 73 other

Labour MPs votes against the Government.

May 22: In a speech in Philadelphia, United States, Mr Benn goes beyond shadow Cabinet policy in defence in vowing that "close all nuclear bases in Britain, including American nuclear bases".

May 27: Mr Benn leads the NEC in defeating Mr Foot over clarification of reselection procedures.

May 31: Mr Benn challenges traditional leadership view of collective responsibility in the shadow Cabinet. "My view is that we are all collectively responsible for implementing the policy agreed by the party and that limited, collective responsibilities within that are a cover for reversing the party's policy against nuclear weapons or against the Common Market. These little caches of responsibility cannot be used to prevent the Labour Party from advocating the party policy".

June 3: In speech to a union conference Mr Benn throws down the gauntlet. "Things regarded as sacred like collective Cabinet responsibility are also worth examining because they are conventions at the discretion of the leader. There are other collective responsibilities; a key one is collective responsibility to implement the policies of the party we represent".

June 10: Mr Benn calls for a general election on the day of the 202nd Derby Stakes at Epsom.

The authoritative 10 lengths victory by 100 to 10 on favourite Shergar was considerably more predictable as the huge crowd roared it home in temperatures which touched the mid-seventies.

The Aga Khan, who boasts the horse among his string of 500, uttered an enthusiastic endorsement afterwards: "You see a lot of horses and some say something to you, and some don't. This horse, before he ran, was saying things to me".

Walter Swinburn, the 19-year-old jockey who became the youngest rider to win the Derby since Lester Piggott on Never Say Die in 1954, added: "I was a passenger on a very good horse. It was an easy ride".

It was a bad day only for the bookies, of whom Ladbrokes' £400,000 bet on the winner, Harrier Lee, who high on the anthill of perspiring punters overlooking the course, was called a "poker" who cared to poke their heads into her caravan that Piggott was certain to win.

She bemoaned her fate afterwards with the immortal words: "Things aren't what they used to be. It must be the atmosphere".

At the other end of the social scale, the Queen, dressed in a red silk coat and matching straw hat, was driven down the stand side of the course at the head of a convoy of six Rolls-Royces, and accompanied by the music of the Band of the Welsh Guards.

Still awaiting her first Derby win she peered through Royal binoculars at most of the races.

However, when the voting is done and the verdict cast, I trust that all of us will henceforth write our whole minds to the task which should always have been given the overwhelming priority—the defeat of the enemy. The winning of the next election will not derive from the wretched record of the Labour Party in all depends on the character of our own party.

Our appearance will not be improved by examples of sectarian intolerance or by the ruthless pursuit of internal feuds. It is our duty to present the real nature of our party—its compassion, its common sense, its idealism, its imagination, its understanding of the new and perilous challenge of the 1980s.

It is these enduring qualities in our movement which have served this country at some critical moments in our history and which can enable us again to win the right to serve the British people at what may be the most dangerous moment in the century.

Mr Benn's defiance of the shadow Cabinet but without any consideration for the other members of the executive or even the home policy committee of which he is chairman, several of whom think this is not the way to respect conference decisions or to divide a weak policy for Ireland, and I agree.

I must add, since I have been involved in any new declaration of policy about Ireland, that nothing in that new policy will involve any readiness by the Labour Party to condone or assist or excuse the resort to terrorism and violence and intimidation. Where people have the right to choose their own way of life, as is practised by the Provisional IRA, must be condemned by all democrats without any qualification whatever. That is what I have said and will continue to say so long as I am leader of the Labour Party.

I hope Tony Benn will now respond to the proposal I make, and seek election as leader under the electoral system he himself favoured. I think now that is the only course he can properly take. No doubt we

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The growing rivalry: Mr Foot and Mr Benn at the Labour Party conference last October.

Foot attacks ruthless pursuit of internal feuds

Continued from page 1

matter different from that passed at the party conference. The subject is still open for discussion and those with different views must be allowed to state their case.

Tony Benn once said he accepted the view of the last referendum. He has changed that view, as he had every right to do. But if he is allowed to conduct a debate with himself others are entitled to join in.

The nuclear arms race: To me this is incomparably the greatest question of all, and as an old CNDer, I have not changed my approach and attitude. I do not believe that nuclear weapons protect the nation; in certain circumstances their existence on our soil could invite our destruction. However, it is the nuclear arms race itself which threatens the annihilation of our country and our world, and above all else, I want to see a new Labour Government playing a leading part in stopping the deadly plunge towards catastrophe.

Indeed, I believe the party, with the right policy, can help change the climate of opinion even before the election. To

achieve that, the party must have a disarmament policy which commands as wide assent as possible. The last party conference passed extremely important resolutions on these inter-related subjects, although not all of them are necessarily compatible one with another. On the initiative of the national executive, but with my full support and that of the Shadow Cabinet, meetings have been scheduled comprising representatives of the two bodies to discuss the next steps.

This seems to me a sensible way to proceed, and indeed it was partly for this reason that I so strongly favoured the kind of amendment which the Shadow Cabinet put down to the Government's White Paper on defence a few weeks ago. That amendment commanded the unanimous support of the parliamentary party. It seemed to me it would have been quite wrong for the Shadow Cabinet to have anticipated by its decisions the other discussions which are arranged to take place.

Northern Ireland: It is not clear whether Tony Benn is invoking conference decisions to help sustain his attitude to

Northern Ireland. It would be strange if he did, since he in fact is acting in opposition to conference decisions, whereas the rest of the Shadow Cabinet and myself have faithfully followed them.

The policy of withdrawing British troops from Northern Ireland has been specifically rejected by the last two Labour Party conferences. What the conference did instead—wisely, in my opinion—was to endorse the NEC's proposal to set up a study group to examine the whole question of Labour's Irish policy and to shape the necessary elements of a new one. It is, of course, no simple task, but I am sure it is a necessary one.

The study group was in fact set up under the auspices of the home policy committee over which Tony Benn presides, and the national executive committee itself has repeatedly urged that it is not fair to this committee, or the sensible way to devise a new plan, for individual members of the executive to come out with their own policies in the meantime.

But that is what Tony Benn has done, not merely without any consideration for the

Shadow Cabinet but without any consideration for the other members of the executive or even the home policy committee of which he is chairman, several of whom think this is not the way to respect conference decisions or to divide a weak policy for Ireland, and I agree.

I must add, since I have been involved in any new declaration of policy about Ireland, that nothing in that new policy will involve any readiness by the Labour Party to condone or assist or excuse the resort to terrorism and violence and intimidation. Where people have the right to choose their own way of life, as is practised by the Provisional IRA, must be condemned by all democrats without any qualification whatever. That is what I have said and will continue to say so long as I am leader of the Labour Party.

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The Queen acclaims Walter Swinburn, aged 19, the jockey who won the Derby by 10 lengths on Shergar.

What Shergar said to the Aga Khan

By Michael Horsnell

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Walter Swinburn, the 19-year-old jockey who became the youngest rider to win the Derby since Lester Piggott on Never Say Die in 1954, added: "I was a passenger on a very good horse. It was an easy ride".

It was a bad day only for the bookies, of whom Ladbrokes' £400,000 bet on the winner, Harrier Lee, who high on the anthill of perspiring punters overlooking the course, was called a "poker" who cared to poke their heads into her caravan that Piggott was certain to win.

She bemoaned her fate afterwards with the immortal words: "Things aren't what they used to be. It must be the atmosphere".

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At the other end of the social scale, the Queen, dressed in a red silk coat and matching straw hat, was driven down the stand side of the course at the head of a convoy of six Rolls-Royces, and accompanied by the music of the Band of the Welsh Guards.

Still awaiting her first Derby win she peered through Royal binoculars at most of the races.

Mr Benn's defiance of the shadow Cabinet but without any consideration for the other members of the executive or even the home policy committee of which he is chairman, several of whom think this is not the way to respect conference decisions or to divide a weak policy for Ireland, and I agree.

I must add, since I have been involved in any new declaration of policy about Ireland, that nothing in that new policy will involve any readiness by the Labour Party to condone or assist or excuse the resort to terrorism and violence and intimidation. Where people have the right to choose their own way of life, as is practised by the Provisional IRA, must be condemned by all democrats without any qualification whatever. That is what I have said and will continue to say so long as I am leader of the Labour Party.

I hope Tony Benn will now respond to the proposal I make, and seek election as leader under the electoral system he himself favoured. I think now that is the only course he can properly take. No doubt we

shall have some fierce arguments, but no doubt both of us will survive.

However, when the voting is done and the verdict cast, I trust that all of us will henceforth write our whole minds to the task which should always have been given the overwhelming priority—the defeat of the enemy. The winning of the next election will not derive from the wretched record of the Labour Party in all depends on the character of our own party.

Our appearance will not be improved by examples of sectarian intolerance or by the ruthless pursuit of internal feuds. It is our duty to present the real nature of our party—its compassion, its common sense, its idealism, its imagination, its understanding of the new and perilous challenge of the 1980s.

It is these enduring qualities in our movement which have served this country at some critical moments in our history and which can enable us again to win the right to serve the British people at what may be the most dangerous moment in the century.

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Treasury doubts on EEC

Continued from page 1

I do hope that the possibility will be seriously discussed".

The work in the Overseas Finance Sector of the department, gave evidence to the Lords in private session on the understanding that the minutes would not be published.

The officials said they hoped increasing electoral opposition in Germany to the costs of her EEC membership will force other countries to make a compromise. "A community without Germany is unthinkable